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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Veterans Day parade death: A World War II veteran won't face charges for killing a friend at the start of Whitman's Veterans Day parade, the man's lawyer says.

Brockton District Court Clerk Magistrate Kevin Creedon, who heard the vehicular homicide complaint filed by Whitman police against Joseph E. Davis, found no probable cause to send the case to prosecution and dismissed the complaint last week.

Utah avalanche: Trained dogs found the body of one of five skiers feared buried beneath tons of snow left by a powerful avalanche. Sweat shirts and gloves also were found, possibly indicating more victims are nearby.

The body of Shane Maixner, 27, of Sandpoint, Idaho, was found Sunday under 4 feet of snow as searchers scoured the area of Friday's slide, Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said at a news conference.

Flooding in Midwest: Water levels remained well above flood stage along the Wabash River in southwestern Indiana on Sunday as residents and National Guard troops sandbagged to protect against leaking levees.

About 32,000 sandbags have been made available to shore up a levee in West Terre Haute where the crest was expected to be the highest since 1950, according to the State Emergency Management Agency Web site. Nearly 100 National Guard troops were helping, said SEMA spokesman Alden Taylor.

No damage was reported due to houses, SEMA said, but about 120 people were evacuated.

World

'Batman' strikes again: A man in a Batman suit spent several hours on a rooftop balcony atop a courthouse in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday, protesting the treatment of fathers in divorce cases.

Police initially said they planned to ignore the man, a member of the group Fathers for Justice, until he came down.

But police spokeswoman Wendy Alberse said the man, whose name was not released, struck a deal to surrender peacefully. Police offered him a ladder and he climbed through a window to safety, she said.

Prince Harry's costume blunder: The Eu-



Ukraine election: Supporters of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, losing presidential candidate, shout and hold Yanukovich election posters with his portrait during a rally in Donetsk, Yanukovich's stronghold of Ukraine's eastern region. Blue-and-white flags — Yanukovich's campaign colors — are seen in the background. The Supreme Court began hearings Monday on what appeared to be the last appeal by Yanukovich over alleged fraud in the presidential election he lost to Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko.

ropean Union may consider banning Nazi symbols in its 25 member nations after Britain's Prince Harry wore a swastika armband to a costume party, the bloc's top justice official said Monday.

Franco Frattini, the EU's justice and home affairs commissioner, said he was open to discussing the issue at a Jan. 27 meeting of EU justice ministers.

Deadly clashes in Kuwait: Authorities have up to 15 Kuwaitis and Saudi Arabians in custody in relation to last week's two deadly clashes with Muslim fundamentalists, the interior minister said Monday.

Sheik Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah declined to say if the suspects had connections to terrorist organizations such as Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. A day earlier, the Cabinet condemned the two shootouts as acts of terrorism.

He said security cooperation between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which has also seen a spate of similar terrorist incidents, was "absolute."

Mideast conflict: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas ordered his security forces Monday to try to prevent attacks against Israel and to investigate a shooting at a Gaza Strip crossing that killed six Israeli civilians

last week.

However, Palestinian officials would not provide details of the order, and it was unclear how it would be translated into action, if at all. Abbas insists he will use persuasion, not force, to rein in armed groups.

A Hamas spokesman said the Islamic militant group will continue carrying out attacks.

Military

Shooting involving Marine: A Marine who killed one town police officer and wounded another one was a gang member who was high on cocaine, not a combat veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress, police said.

Investigators said they are discounting a theory that Lance Cpl. Andres Rayra, 19, may have instigated a "suicide by cop" — provoking officers to shoot him — because he did not want to return to Iraq.

"During our investigation, we found he wasn't due to go back to Iraq, never faced combat situations and never even fired his gun," Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Woodman said Saturday.

Rayra shot the two officers with a rifle outside a liquor store on Jan. 9 before police returned fire and killed him.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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AFN weighs options after satellite failure

Network turns to direct-to-sailor system to bring three channels to shore-based viewers

BY PATRICK DICKSON
AND GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

AFRTS officials in Virginia said Monday that it will be another day before they decide on one of two fixes for the cable outage in the Pacific, and that neither solution will bring full service back for "three or four days."

On Saturday, the INTELSAT804 satellite over the Pacific Ocean suffered a "major electrical failure onboard" according to Andy Friedrich, chief of Plans and Policy Operations at American Forces Radio and Television Service.

Many viewers in the American Forces Network Pacific region had at least limited, three-channel television service again Monday thanks to AFN's Direct-to-Sailor

satellite system, AFN officials there said. The three channels are AFN News, AFN Prime Pacific and AFN Sports.

That was good enough, along with radio broadcasts, this week's football action, Friedrich said.

Technicians worked through the three-day weekend, Keith Lebling, an AFN Pacific official at Yokota Air Base, explained Monday afternoon.

AFRTS has two options, Friedrich said. Either would be transparent to the on-base customer but could pose serious problems for those off base using AFRTS' Direct-to-Home service.

It could buy space on a Japanese satellite, which would require a small adjustment to dishes on the ground that point at the satellite. The downside is that there

would need to be a "change-out" of some ground equipment because a different frequency would be coming out of the satellite.

The alternative is using another international satellite, which would use the same ground equipment, but would require as much as a 100-degree shift in aiming the dish, which could be problematic.

"The dish move, from [pointing to the] east to west, in some cases, [customers] would not be able to 'look' at the new satellite," Friedrich said. "There might be a high-rise structure in the way, or they might be on the wrong side of a high-rise apartment building."

In either case, while some customers could realign their dishes themselves with over-the-phone help from AFN technicians, most would need a visit to their

home from an Intelsat or AFN technician. AFRTS estimates there are 3,000 such customers off base.

The satellite failure affected all of mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and other Pacific installations from Diego Garcia to Alaska, Lebling said.

An alternate broadcast schedule is available at: <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/tv/assets/Dts13Jan.xls>, according to the AFN Web site at www.myafn.net.

Lebling said viewers so far have understood the nature of the problem and generally expressed patience.

"I have had a lot of questions but not even one complaint," he said. "And when I get questions, I just explain the situation pretty much just like I did for you. They seem to understand we're doing what we can."

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Sure Start programs plan home visits for Japan and Okinawa

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Officials at Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Okinawa District will carry out Sure Start Program home visits Jan. 31-Feb. 4. DODDS-Japan District schools will do the same Feb. 9-11, a DODDS-Pacific spokesman said Friday.

There will be no school for Sure Start pupils on those days, said Chip Steitz, a DODDS-Pacific spokesman.

The DODDS-Korea District schools operating Sure Start Programs have not finalized dates for the home visits, Steitz said.

"Sure Start offers a comprehensive approach to early childhood education that involves children, their families, the school and the community at large," Steitz said.

The program is for command-sponsored, qualified 4-year-olds. To be enrolled, a child must turn 4 by Oct. 31 of

the current school year, states the DODDS-Pacific Web Site.

Children qualify for Sure Start based on family dynamics that may put the child at risk, such as low birth weight, single-parent households, a parent on a long deployment or disabilities, the site states.

Children of servicemembers ranked E-1 through E-4 are considered a priority.

"The Sure Start program is a model school-readiness program for families living and working at military installations overseas," Steitz said.

"Not every school has a Sure Start Program. Having Sure Start is determined by assessing the need based on the population of the base communities," Steitz added.

Parents should call the school in their community to learn if a Sure Start Program is available, or call DODDS-Pacific at DSN 644-5657 for more information.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylertg@pstripes.osd.mil

Youth of the year

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota students ages 13-18 can sign up now for the Air Force Youth of the Year Program. Applications are available at the Yokota Teen Center.

The selected representative from Yokota will be invited to the annual Air Force Youth of the Year Program and Ceremony June 20-25 in Washington, D.C.

Contact Will Beasley at DSN 225-6793 for more information.

Basket weaving classes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Yokota Arts & Crafts Center is offering basket-weaving classes

taught by renowned artist Keiko Takeda.

They cost \$30 for two sessions; the next class is slated for Jan. 29. Students are to complete one project over two sessions. Materials and supplies are \$15.

Samples of work from previous classes can be seen at the Arts & Crafts Center in Building 334.

A master basket maker, Takeda's contemporary and Japanese weave classes are popular at conventions in Vermont, Michigan, North Carolina and California. Her museum-quality work, along with one of her baskets, is on display in one of England's museums.

For more information, call DSN 225-7837.

From staff reports

Remembering MLK



Above: The Community Christian Fellowship Praise Team at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, sings during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Remembrance Ceremony on Monday. Fifty-two base community members attended the observance, which was held in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Left: The Rev. Cheryl Jackson speaks during the ceremony. Jackson, in addition to ministry work, manages Atsugi's and Camp Zama's Community Bank.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW SCHWARZ
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Translators face tough choice: Fear or poverty

By AMAN SINAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iman Hashim worked as a translator for U.S. troops dealing with her small town's local government council until insurgents broke into her family home last night and shot her to death as she lay in bed.

"She was young," her elderly mother said recently, her voice trembling. Remembering the way that her 24-year-old daughter's blood stained the sheet and pillow and even the walls, the mother, Sabihah Abdulmohtsin, begins to cry.

Like many Iraqis who deal with Americans and other Westerners, those who work as interpreters face a dilemma — keep their jobs and live with threats of intimidation and death or give up their livelihood in a country where jobs are at a premium.

There are no hard numbers on how many translators have been killed by the insurgents since the U.S.-led occupation began in May 2003. Their employers and families routinely refuse to provide information about such killings for fear of endangering families or other translators.

But since last November, rumors have swirled throughout the region where Hashim lived, the so-called "triangle of death" south of Baghdad, of bounties being offered for murders: \$10,000 for a policeman, \$2,000 for a member of the National Guard and \$10,000 for an Iraqi translator or journalist.

Many of the Iraqis working as translators are young women like Iman — knowledgeable of English in a country where language skills are valued.

Sometimes they support whole families on their salaries.

Iman's mother, 55 and wearing a veil when talking to a reporter, left her home in Mahmoodiya, 25 miles south of Baghdad, and moved to live with her sister in Baghdad after her daughter's brutal slaying last year.

Abu Hassan, a 58-year-old father of three who works as a translator for U.S. forces in Baghdad, is fatalistic, believing that God alone can determine his destiny. But he is sure that no insurgent will pay him a salary if he leaves his job. "Those who are threatening us will not fetch bread for my children. I'll quit," he said.

Beyond being targeted individually, interpreters who work for multinational troops are also at risk because they often travel with military units on patrol or help them make dangerous checkpoints.

In November, for example, an Iraqi man who served as an interpreter was killed along with three British soldiers when a suicide driver blew up his vehicle at a checkpoint in a high-risk area just south of Baghdad.

The British unit had moved to the area a few days earlier from Basra and the interpreter had postponed his wedding to travel with the troops, a British spokesman said.

2nd BCT sees progress in Ramadi

In four months, unit has achieved much — and lost much, too

By JOSEPH GIORDANO
Stars and Stripes

Four months ago, when the 2nd Brigade Combat Team arrived in Ramadi, the local population certainly did not roll out the welcome mat. But in the intervening months, as the brigade adjusted its operations and sought more interaction, the relationship has gotten decidedly better.

With the Jan. 30 elections looming in Ramadi — one of Iraq's most dangerous cities for U.S. servicemen — 2nd Infantry Division officials say they have a plan in place and are encouraged by a change in sentiments around the region.

"Four months ago, we were doing 'movement to contact' patrols every day. We were an obtrusive presence," Col. Gary S. Patton, brigade commander, said Saturday. "Now, we've established a security base in the city, and we're doing more precision raids. We're getting good intel from the local population. When we first got here, that wasn't happening."

Patton points to two recent examples. Last week, acting on a tip, 2nd Brigade forces swept up 20 "named targets" in a single raid. A few weeks earlier, members of the unit performed something even more unthinkable when they first arrived.

"We staged ambushes out of people's houses and killed nine man terror squads," Patton said. Before, he said, "insurgents would have alerted the insurgents to their presence."

"Things we couldn't do four months ago, we've done in the past 45 days."

The brigade, which includes 3,500 soldiers, has completed 1.5 million words of civil project during that time and helped create 800 new jobs, officials said. Universities and schools opened on time this fall, and city officials are returning to their jobs.

But brigade officials acknowledge they are in the midst of what Patton called a "classic counterinsurgency fight" in a city with a population approaching 400,000.

Since deploying to Iraq, the brigade has lost at least 36 soldiers to enemy attacks ranging from small-arm fire to roadside bombs. Dozens more soldiers have been seriously wounded.

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DAVID HAMMAR/Courtesy of 2nd Brigade Combat Team

A soldier with 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment guards a position in Al Tash during a humanitarian relief mission. The battalion distributed blankets, food and shoes during the operation.

The peak of the attacks happened during Ramadan and included 18 suicide car bomb attacks, said Maj. Steve Alexander, brigade operations officer.

"That was the defining event so far," he said. "That was when we saw a serious spike in violence."

Since then, things quieted a little, he said. But as the elections draw closer, the brigade is seeing the action pick up again. Patrols have come under fire nearly every day, mortars have been shot at bases and a crowd of children threw rocks at one unit last week.

The insurgents around Ramadi are made up of at least five different groups, Alexander said, ranging from former Baathists to foreign fighters bent on jihad.

"The former regime elements really have the most long-term goals and long-term strategy," he said. "The jihadists seem much more interested in just killing people."

Most of the groups have shifted their focus to an intimidation campaign targeting anyone — especially local Iraqi National Guardsmen or Iraqi police — who works with U.S. troops. But each part of the insurgency has its specialties, Alexander said. Some are former mortarmen from Saddam's army; others are former secret service agents who are trained in terror and intimidation; others are simple direct-action cells who attack with small arms.

"They can't be underestimated operationally or strategically," he said. "But tactically, we always win."

For the elections, the brigade has received a special battalion of Iraqi commandos who have fought alongside U.S. units from Mosul to Fallujah. The key, said Maj. Robert Proctor, the brigade's Iraqi Security Forces development officer, is that the commandos are not from the local area.

The intimidation campaign — which saw five of the eight police stations in Ramadi destroyed or looted by insurgents — largely doesn't work on the commandos, Proctor said.

"We're introducing forces that without a doubt are willing to engage and destroy the insurgents. They've shown that fighting alongside the soldiers and Marines in Fallujah," Proctor said.

The commando battalion, led by a career military commander, Col. Muhsen, had already started patrols with the 1st Battalion, 303rd Infantry soldiers in downtown Ramadi. The big test will come on election day, for both the Iraqi and U.S. forces, officials said.

One challenge, said Maj. Tom Munsey, the brigade fire support and information operations officer, is the relatively high illiteracy rate outside of Ramadi, which was once known as a university town.

"The big impression I get is that the people of Ramadi are tired of the fighting," Munsey said. "The question I always ask, and one that I haven't gotten a straight answer to yet, is 'What was Ramadi like five years ago?'"

Second Brigade officials bristle at comparisons of Ramadi to Fallujah or reports that label it an "insurgent stronghold." Since Day 1, the brigade has not seen any soldiers being paroled in Ramadi; on the other hand, Fallujah was a "no-go" zone for coalition forces until the November assault.

"It's a contested city, that's for sure. I don't think we can quite see the light at the end of the tunnel yet," said Alexander, the operations officer. "But we've at least turned the corner and can see some doors we might be able to get to."

E-mail Joseph Giordano at: giordanoj@stripes.osd.mil

Iraqi exiles register for nation's election

By ED JOHNSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Exiled Iraqis began registering to vote Monday in their homeland's first independent elections in nearly 50 years, with dozens arriving at polling stations in 14 countries from Australia to Britain to the United States — and many expressing confusion at the process.

At a London registration center near Wembley Stadium, Saieb Jabbar, who left Baghdad in 1981, was the first to register, with 23-year-old son, Ahmed, who made his only visit to Iraq recently. Both were eager to vote.

We lived in a dictatorship a long time, and it's the first time in my life, in my 48 years, that I can vote in Iraq," Saieb Jabbar said. "I feel very happy."

Britain set up three polling centers — in Glasgow, Manchester and London — which meant voters had to travel long distances several times, first to register and then to cast their ballots.

Eligible Iraqis abroad, estimated to number 1.2 million — can vote in Britain, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Voting will be held in six cities in Iraq, five in the United States, four in Germany, and three in the Netherlands and Canada.

The seven-day registration period ends Jan. 23. Voting will begin Jan. 28 and continue until the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq for a constituency that will draft a constitution and choose a president.

The walls of the registration center in Berlin were plastered with posters showing a Muslim woman in front of the Brandenburg Gate holding the Iraqi flag with a German slogan saying, "It's the same wherever I am — my heart is in the homeland."

Hussein Al-Nasravi, an engineer, said he made sure to be on the first day because he believes free elections are the only hope for his country.

"The future of the world is democracy," he said in German. "The situation for this vote is not optimal, that is clear, but for the future it is a good beginning."

But in Damascus, Syria, registrar Musab al-Rifai said he believed many of his countrymen would not register "because they

are unconvinced that their vote would change anything."

Low turnout was recorded at registration centers across Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates on Monday, the first of a seven-day registration period.

In the United States, Iraqi expatriates have begun registering in Washington, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Nashville, Tenn.

"This is an historic event taking place on American soil," said Basim Ridha Alhussaini, an Iraqi expatriate responsible for training some 320 poll workers in Southern California. "This has never happened before."

The Detroit area has the greatest population of Iraqi immigrants in the United States, with an estimated 80,000 Iraqi exiles living throughout Michigan.



AP Photo

Iraqi policemen burn election posters of Interim Prime Minister Allawi on Monday as they rally through the streets of Najaf. Policemen have demanded their salaries for the past several months.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,363 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths, Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,225 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ A U.S. soldier was killed Sunday when an armored vehicle flipped and plunged into a canal in western Baghdad. The latest identifications reported by the military: ■ No identifications reported.

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Rebels target Iraqi forces

More than 20 die in attacks aimed at derailing vote

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen targeted security forces in a series of brazen attacks Monday that killed more than 20 people. A suicide bomber attacked U.S. Marines in Ramadi, where two Shiite Muslims were beheaded and their bodies left on a sidewalk.

In Mosul, a Catholic archbishop was kidnapped.

The top U.S. general here predicted more violence on the Jan. 30 balloting but pledged to do "everything in our power" to ensure safety. U.S. and Iraqi authorities hope for a substantial turnout, especially from the long-suppressed Shiite Muslim majority.

The deadliest attacks occurred in the three insurgent flashpoint cities north and west of Baghdad in areas where Sunni Muslim insurgents are seeking to derail the balloting.

In Buhair, 35 miles north of Baghdad, gunmen attacked an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint at the provincial broadcasting center, killing eight soldiers and wounding four. A suicide driver blasted a police station in Beiji, 155 miles north of the capital, killing seven policemen and wounding 25 people.

A U.S. spokesman said Marines suffered an undisclosed number of casualties in a suicide car bombing in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. The Marines



Workers prepare to lift an electoral banner of the Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, reading "Strong leadership, safe homeland" in central Baghdad on Monday. The election planned for Jan. 30 will be the first democratic vote in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932.

were sent to check a suspicious vehicle and when they arrived, they came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire and the vehicle exploded.

"There were U.S. casualties," 1st Lt. Lyle Gilbert said. He declined to give further details, citing security.

Also in Ramadi, officials Monday found six bodies — five civilian and one Iraqi soldier — each bearing handwritten notes declaring them collaborators, officials said. Four had been shot but two

were beheaded, their blood-soaked bodies left where they died.

A note left beside the bodies said they were Shiites who confessed to spying for the Americans. They were seized after leaving an American garrison in the middle of the city, the note said.

Shiites have been targets of intimidation because they are expected to turn out in large numbers for the election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly that will appoint a new government and draft a permanent constitution.

Shiites form about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million population, and their candidates are expected to win most of the assembly seats. Many Sunni Arabs fear the loss of power they enjoyed under Saddam Hussein. Sunni clerics have called for a boycott, and U.S. officials fear a low Sunni turnout may cast doubt on the legitimacy of the new government.

On Monday, police discovered a car loaded with explosives in the Shiite holy city of Karbala. On Sunday, a total of 17 people were killed in attacks along the main highway from Baghdad to Kut, 100 miles to the southeast.

Many Shiites have been using the Kut highway for travel to the south to avoid a more direct route which passes through the "triangle of death," where Sunni extremists have been targeting Shiites, foreigners, government officials and security personnel.

In Kut, gunmen broke into an administration building at West University early Monday, wounded two guards and ransacked some offices, police said. University authorities postponed exams until after the election. Kut is in a largely Shiite province which U.S. officials said was safe for elections.

In a statement Monday, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of the multinational forces, said about 300,000 U.S., Iraqi and other international forces will be available to protect voters.



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Attorney: Graner verdict won't affect other abuse cases

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Although observers had predicted that Spc. Charles Graner's conviction in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal would trigger plea deals from the other detainees, at least one soldier intends to go to trial.

Paul Bergin, a Newark, N.J., lawyer representing Sgt. Javal Davis, said Sunday he still plans to argue that his client was obeying orders from higher-ranking officers and government agents to rough up detainees as a prelude to interrogation.

Lawyers for Graner offered that defense, but a military jury convicted him Friday of all five charges he faced and sentenced him Saturday to 10 years behind bars.

The panel needed less than five hours to reach its verdict in the first trial arising from the scandal at the Baghdad prison, ignited when graphic photographs were aired that showed Graner and other Army reservists brutalizing detainees.

"I just don't believe it was presented the way we're going to present it," said Bergin, whose witness list includes Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who then was in charge of Abu Ghraib. "We are taking no prisoners, we are going in there as gladiators."

But retired Army lawyer Jeffrey Addicott said the Graner verdict should send lawyers for Davis and two other soldiers awaiting court-martial in the case scrambling to get the best deals they can.

"So far everyone that's been brought into court has either pled guilty or now has been found guilty," said Addicott, director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. "So if (Davis) raises the defense of 'I was only following orders,' I would predict he's going to get the same result."

Davis, whose trial is set to begin in early February, faces many of the same charges as Graner: conspiracy, assault and dereliction of duty for not protecting detainees. He also is charged with lying to investigators, and could get a maximum of eight years in prison if convicted on all counts.

The Roselle, New Jersey, man has admitted stepping on the fingers and toes of detainees, but he maintains that none of them were hurt.

Bergin said Davis' case is far more winnable than Graner's because unlike Graner, Davis is not seen in the most shocking photos of physical maltreatment and sexual humiliation at Abu Ghraib.

"It helps me extraordinarily because it shows no connection of Davis to any of the indecent acts," Bergin said.

Edward Sherman, a law professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, said that although a smart attorney would not ignore the message sent by Graner's jury, the difference in the photographic evidence means Davis may be better off.

"It seems to me those photographs were so damning and there's just no opportunity to argue ambiguity or just exactly what happened when you've got the photographs," Sherman said.

Also facing trial is Pfc. Lynndie England, of Fort Ashby, West Virginia, a 22-year-old clerk at Abu Ghraib who became romantically involved with Graner. She is depicted in a number of the most memorable photos, and could be sentenced to 38 years if found guilty of 19 abuse counts.



Graner

U.S. intel finds no evidence WMD were moved from Iraq

BY KATHERINE
PFLEGER SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the hunt for weapons of mass destruction dragged on unsuccessfully in Iraq, top Bush administration officials speculated publicly that the banned armaments may have been smuggled out of the country before the war.

Whether Saddam Hussein moved the WMD — deadly chemical, biological or radiological arms — is one of the unresolved issues that the final U.S. intelligence report on Iraq's programs is expected to address next month.

But intelligence and congressional officials say they have not seen any information — never "a piece," said one — indicating that WMD or significant amounts of components and equipment were

transferred from Iraq to neighboring Syria, Jordan or elsewhere.

The administration acknowledged last week that the search for banned weapons is largely over. The Iraq Survey Group's chief, Charles Duelfer, is expected to submit the final installments of his report in February. A small number of the organization's experts will remain on the job in case new intelligence on Iraq WMD is unearthed.

A special adviser to the CIA director, Duelfer declined an interview request through an agency spokesman. In his last public statements, he told a Senate panel last October that it remained unclear whether banned weapons could have been moved from Iraq.

Last week, a congressional official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said suggestions that weapons or components were

sent from Iraq were based on speculation stemming from uncorroborated information.

President Bush and top-ranking officials in his administration used the existence of WMD in Iraq as the main justification for the March 2003 invasion, and throughout much of last year the White House continued to raise the possibility the weapons were transferred to another country.

Since the October report from Duelfer, which said Saddam intended to obtain WMD but had no banned weapons, senior administration leaders have largely stopped discussing whether the weapons were moved.

Last week, the intelligence and congressional officials said there was evidence indicating that somewhat common equipment with dual military and civilian uses, such as fermenters, was salvaged during post-invasion looting and sold for scrap in other countries.



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IN THE WORLD

U.N. report: World's poor relying on promises from rich countries

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — In the coming decade, more than 500 million people can escape from poverty and tens of millions can avoid certain death if the United States, Japan and other rich countries keep their promises to vastly increase development aid to the world's poorest countries, a U.N.-sponsored report said Monday.

The report spells out the investments needed to meet U.N. goals adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in 2000 to tackle poverty, hunger and disease mainly in African and Asian countries where 1 billion people live on a dollar a day or less and 1.8 billion more live on just \$2 a day.

"The system is not working right now — let's be clear," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the U.N. anti-poverty effort and lead author of the report. "There's a tremendous imbalance of focus on the issues of war and peace, and less on the dying and suffering of the poor who have no voice."

"The overwhelming reality on

our planet is that impoverished people get sick and die for lack of access to basic practical means that could help keep them alive and do more than that — help them achieve livelihoods and escape from poverty," said Sachs, who heads the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

As an example, he said, providing nets to cover beds and keep out mosquitoes in impoverished African and Asian countries could save the lives of a million children this year who otherwise will die from malaria.

"We have the world's eyes focused on the tsunami of the Indian Ocean, but the world continues to overlook the silent tsunami of deaths from malaria, which take every month the number of people that died in the Asian tragedy," Sachs said.

Sachs was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2002 to head the Millennium Project and develop a plan to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Annan is expected to use the report to help prepare his own recommendations to world leaders who will be attending a follow-up summit in September that will also tackle U.N. reform.

The 3,000-page report by a team of 265 experts, "Investing In Development," said the poorest countries don't have the resources to meet the goals. They include halving the number of people living on a dollar a day and halving the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation.

But the resources needed to meet the goals are within the means of the world's richest nations and their \$30 trillion economy — \$12 trillion just in the United States, Sachs said.

In 1970, the world's nations agreed to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national income for development assistance. So far, only five countries have met or surpassed the target — Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Six others have made commitments to reach the target by 2015 — Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Spain and Britain — and the report urged all developed countries to set similar timetables.

The United States right now only spends about 0.15 percent of its GDP on development aid, though President Bush has increased the amount.

Zhao Ziyang dies

BEIJING — Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted as China's Communist Party leader after sympathizing with the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests, died Monday after 15 years under house arrest. He was 85.

The cause of death wasn't immediately announced, but the official Xinhua News Agency said Zhao suffered from multiple respiratory and cardiovascular ailments and died at a Beijing hospital "after failing to respond to all emergency treatment."

Taiwan weapons buy

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan's legislature is likely to approve a special budget to buy a massive U.S. weapons package soon following a long debate over the deal, the island's leader said on Monday.

President Chen Shui-bian said he expects the budget to be approved in the first half of this year. He made the remarks in a meeting with U.S. Democratic Party Representative Tom Lantos, according to a statement from Chen's office.

Washington fears it could be drawn into a conflict between Taiwan and China, and provides Taiwan with weapons to defend itself.

Hundreds hurt in crash

BANGKOK, Thailand — Service on Bangkok's six-month old subway system was suspended for a week after more than 200 people were injured when an empty train crashed into one full of passengers during Monday morning's rush hour.

Praphat Jongsanguan, head of the Mass Rapid Transit Authority, and Transport Minister Suriya Junggrungretnak said workers, after disabling an automatic braking system, lost control of a train being taken out of

service, which then slid down a sloped area of track in less than a minute into another, occupied train.

Live from prison

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thai-lan officials said Monday it will make live Internet broadcasts of life behind prison walls — including convicts' last moments before execution — in a bid to deter lawbreakers, especially a burgeoning number of drug dealers.

Though no date has been fixed to begin the Web broadcasts, cameras have already been installed at Bangkok's maximum security prison on the outskirts of Bangkok, which houses more than 6,000 inmates. Nearly 1,000 are sentenced to death, and 65 are awaiting execution with no appeals pending.

Con woman jailed

LONDON — A woman who used the date-rape drug Rohypnol to drug wealthy men and rob them was jailed for five years Monday.

Selma Hakli pleaded not guilty to two charges of using a stupefying drug to commit an offense and two charges of theft, but also refused to give evidence in her defense.

WTO negotiations

GENEVA — World Trade Organization members should consider overhauling the way they hold negotiations in the body that sets the rules of global commerce, a panel of leading experts said Monday.

WTO members currently make decisions by consensus — in theory giving the biggest, richest and the smallest, poorest members the same power. But a new report said the consensus approach is overused, even in purely procedural matters.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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STARS AND STRIPES
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Wolfowitz: U.S. military's relief work in Sri Lanka could end soon

By TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

GALLE, Sri Lanka — U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Monday that Sri Lanka is moving swiftly from relief to reconstruction three weeks after a devastating tsunami and help from U.S. military engineers will not be needed much longer.

In Indonesia, the United Nations banned its staff from traveling between the hard-hit provincial capital of Banda Aceh to the east Sumatran city of Medan because of reported fighting between the military and separatist rebels in the tsunami-battered area, a U.N. spokesman said.

After visiting a battered area on Sri Lanka's southern coast, Wolfowitz said he was "impressed by how resilient people are" and then met the country's leaders to see what more America can do.

From a helicopter, Wolfowitz surveyed rubble-lined beaches where about 700 U.S. Marines are helping to clear debris and rebuild. So far, the U.S. government has sent \$38 million to the island in emergency aid.

Wolfowitz said Sri Lanka was further along than Indonesia in starting to rebuild, and the U.S. military may soon leave.

"We don't want to stay any longer than we are really needed," Wolfowitz said. "I think the need for this kind of military support is going away quite quickly."

Earlier, U.S. Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, who is coordinating American

Rebel leader says tsunami aid workers are safe in Indonesia

The Associated Press

ACEH BESAR, Indonesia — Rebels in Indonesia's tsunami-battered Aceh province will not attack foreign aid workers, an insurgent commander said Monday, amid a warning of an imminent terror attack in the region and a claim by Indonesia's military that the guerrillas may attack relief workers.

"Our mothers, our wives, our children are victims from this tragedy," Tengku Mucksalmina said in a hideout on the edge of a jungle about a two-hour drive outside Banda Aceh, the provincial capital of Aceh.

"We would never ambush any convoy with aid for them. We want them (aid groups) to stay. We ask them not to leave

relief efforts in South Asia, said he expected the U.S. military to wind down operations in Thailand and Sri Lanka in the next two weeks.

Relief efforts are being led by nearly 15,000 U.S. troops — most of whom are docked off the coast of western Sumatra island.

Australia, Singapore, Germany and

the Acehese people who are suffering," Mucksalmina said, his voice rising with emotion after each sentence.

Last week, the Indonesian military insisted that troops provide escorts to foreign aid workers outside Banda Aceh to defend against attacks from the Free Aceh Movement, commonly known by the acronym GAM. The militants have been fighting for three decades to gain independence for Aceh — an area hard hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami.

The government has warned that the guerrillas might ambush aid convoys to steal food, and the Danish Foreign Ministry on Monday issued a statement warning of an "imminent terror attack on foreign relief workers" in Aceh. But Danish officials declined to say what prompted the warning.

Other nations also have contributed troops.

Japan was preparing its biggest-ever overseas military relief effort, a mission involving 1,000 troops expected to arrive soon in their first deployment to Indonesia since World War II.

On Sunday, Jakarta backed away from an earlier call for troops to be out of Indonesia by March 26.



U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, left, walks through the debris in a refugee camp Sunday in Gintota, Sri Lanka. Before meeting the country's leaders to discuss what more America would do, Wolfowitz told students and teachers that the whole world was eager to help.

Helping the victims get well



TYLER J. CLEMENTS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Lt. Cmdr. Ramon Cestero, of San Diego, treats an infected head wound of an Indonesian man Sunday while working with the United Nations' World Health Organization. Helicopters from USS Abraham Lincoln are transporting supplies and bringing in disaster relief teams to tsunami-stricken Indonesian and Thai coastal areas.

Mecca journey different after tsunami

By BRIAN MURPHY

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The fisherman had waited all his life for this moment — when he would put away his old nets for a while and join the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

His sister threw him a party with balloons and special spicy rice. The gifts included a new Quran and guests started calling 50-year-old Mat Saleh by the honorific "hajji," reserved for those who have made the holy trip to Mecca.

Mat Saleh was packing when the sea withdrew and roared back with killing force three weeks ago. His beachside home was among the first wiped from the Earth in the tsunami. He and his family were gone.

"Someday, God willing, I'll make the hajj as an honor to my brother," said his sister, Samsidar Usman, who also lost her husband in the Dec. 26 disaster and later found a place in a muddy refugee settlement around a mosque. "But there is little time for happy thoughts like that now."

Mat Saleh was among the estimated 500 pilgrims from the devastated province of Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra island, who did not turn up for government-organized flights to Saudi Arabia from Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

It is still unknown how many of those planning for the hajj were killed or made refugees by the waves that first steamed northwest Indonesia and raced across the Indian Ocean within hours — taking some 162,000 lives, more than two-thirds of them from Indonesia.

The tragedy has left a shadow on this year's main hajj, which coincides with a period during the 12th month of the Muslim lunar calendar. The hajj — a spiritual journey of prayers and rituals — comes to a climax Wednesday.

An estimated 2 million pilgrims, including 200,000 Indonesians, are expected to pass through the holy cities of Medina and Mecca.

This is why she hopes someday to take the hajj.

"It would be like a double hajj: for me and Mat



Samsidar Usman looks out at the rain from her tent in a refugee camp Sunday in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Her brother Mat Saleh was killed in the Dec. 26 tsunami just days before he planned to leave for the Muslim hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

Saleh," she said. "I like to think he would be watching me and happy. But first I must take care of the living here. How I will do that, I don't know. We can't go back to where we lived. It's part of the sea now."

The hajj culminates with prayers on Mount Arafat, where Islam's founder Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon, before the Eid al-Adha, or the feast of sacrifice, commemorating God's provision of a ram for Abraham to sacrifice as he was about to slay his son to show his devotion.

No special memorials or events have been announced during the hajj for the tsunami victims, but some survivors have offered special prayers upon reaching Mecca.

IN THE STATES

Report: U.S. conducting secret missions in Iran

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON—Since at least last summer, the United States has conducted "secret reconnaissance missions" inside Iran in an effort to identify three dozen or more suspected nuclear, chemical and missile sites that could be destroyed with airstrikes and command raids, according to a report Sunday in The New Yorker magazine.

The existence of the missions, described in an article by veteran journalist Seymour M. Hersh, was not attributed to any source or document.

Hersh's article quoted an unnamed government consultant with close ties to the Pentagon saying, "The civilians in the Pen-

Pentagon calls story 'riddled with errors'

tagon want to go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as possible."

A senior White House aide—without citing any specific point of contention—denounced the article in a televised interview. "I've seen excerpts of this story," said White House spokesman Dan Bartlett, appearing on CNN's "Late Edition." "I think it's riddled with inaccuracies, and I don't believe that some of the conclusions he's drawing there are based on fact."

In a statement made Monday, Pentagon

spokesman Lawrence D. Rita said the article is "riddled with errors of fundamental fact," and denies that high-level meetings Hersh reports in the article ever happened.

The article "reflects poorly on Mr. Hersh and The New Yorker," Di Rita said. Bartlett said President Bush is using diplomacy to persuade the Iranian regime not to develop or acquire any weapons of mass destruction.

"We're working with our European allies to help convince the Iranian government to not pursue weapons of mass de-

struction, particularly nuclear weapons," Bartlett said. "It's critical that the entire world focus on this issue. It is a threat that we have to take seriously."

Speculation about Bush's intentions toward Iran is likely to heighten as his administration enters its second term this week. In his State of the Union address three years ago, Bush alleged that Iran, along with North Korea and Iraq, formed an "axis of evil, aiming to threaten the peace of the world."

Bush, in that speech, said Iran was "aggressively" pursuing weapons of mass destruction while exporting terrorism.

Stripes Washington editor Patrick Dickson contributed to this report.

Parks to open 'Fear Factor Live'

LOS ANGELES—Apparently fear is not a factor when it comes to melding a TV reality show with a theme park attraction.

An audience-participation show based on the NBC show "Fear Factor" will open in May at the Universal Studios theme parks in Hollywood and Orlando, Fla., the company said.

The "Fear Factor Live" show is an example of the kind of corporate "synergy" resulting from NBC's purchase of Universal in 2003. The deal combined the television network with Universal's movie studio, cable channels and theme parks.

The attraction will pit theme park guests against each other in a series of extreme stunts that will replicate the physical and culinary challenges seen on the TV series, the company said.

Ex-convict saves freedom

BATON ROUGE, La.—A quietly jubilant Wilbert Rideau saved his first weekend as a free man since John F. Kennedy was president.

"This is all new to me. I'm writing a new chapter," he said.

Rideau was a janitor and high school dropout when he held up a bank in 1961 just days after his 19th birthday, and killed a white woman. "I don't even know him any more," he told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Rideau, a black man convicted three times in the case by all-white juries, became an award-winning journalist during more than four decades in the nation's bloodiest prison—the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola. He was released Saturday when a racially mixed jury found him guilty of a lesser charge of manslaughter.

From The Associated Press

Whales beach themselves on N.C. coast



U.S. COAST GUARD/AP

Rescue crew members, from left, Seaman Adam Radford, USCG; Ari Friedlander of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Fireman Jennifer Smith, USCG, monitor a live pilot whale on Saturday near Nagshead, N.C. Dozens of whales beached themselves early Saturday along a five-mile stretch of coastline near Oregon Inlet, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. Twenty-four pilot whales died, and another seven were euthanized because they were suffering, the National Park Service reported.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Jan. 15)	100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 14)	1,011.00
Euro costs (Jan. 14)	\$1.3572
Dollar buys (Jan. 14)	\$0.7466
British pound (Jan. 14)	\$1.93
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.377
British pound	\$1.9801
Canada (Dollar)	1.2021
Denmark (Krone)	5.2227
Egypt (Pound)	\$5.9549
Euro	\$1.3200/7514
Hong Kong (Dollar)	79.752
Hungary (Forint)	166.12
Iceland (Krona)	62.41
Israel (Shekel)	4.2467
Japan (Yen)	100.45
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2019
Norway (Krone)	6.1832
Philippines (Peso)	55.55
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0359
South Korea (Won)	1,035.90
Switzerland (Frank)	1.173
Thailand (Baht)	38.85
Turkey (New Lira)	1.6426

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies in one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile close	
Gold	\$424.50
Silver	\$9.78

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	1.25
Federal funds market rate	1.25
3-month bill	2.34
30-year Treasury	4.65

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Time or money?

The Associated Press

The workplace contest between time and money has raged for years. An employee survey suggests money may be starting to lose that battle.

Nearly 40 percent of 4,600 full-time workers said they would choose more time off work than a \$5,000 annual pay hike. That was an almost 20 percent jump from three years ago when Salary.com asked the same question, and represented a significant shift in employee thinking.

"Workers are saying they need a break from the stresses caused by increasing hours, reduced staff and the push for more productivity," said Tim Driver, a senior vice president at the Needham, Mass.-based software company.

"It's also possible that following several years of layoffs and cost-cutting, an increasing number of workers are less inclined to believe that placing work above personal concerns will pay off in career advancement and pay."



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Poll: Americans hopeful about Bush's second term

AP survey reveals lingering doubts regarding Iraq

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans say they feel hopeful about President Bush's second term and have a generally positive view of him personally, but they also express continued doubts about Iraq.

People were most likely to identify Iraq as the top priority for Bush, an Associated Press poll found. But more than half wondered whether a stable government can be established there.

After winning re-election, Bush is preparing to pursue an ambitious agenda that includes efforts to change Social Security, federal tax laws and medical malpractice awards.

Ahead of Bush's inauguration on Thursday, six in 10 people said they felt hopeful about his second term and in response to a separate question 47 percent said they were worried. Most said they were neither angry nor excited about his final four years in office.

Iraq was cited most often as the president's highest priority, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Some 53 percent of those questioned said it is unlikely Iraq will have a stable government.

"Iraq remains the kind of thing that could completely take over the term, if the situation gets a lot worse," said Charles Franklin, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "It's a good idea for the president to push new domestic proposals. He has to find a way to have the whole second term be about more than just Iraq."

More than 1,350 U.S. troops have died in Iraq. Deadly attacks by insurgents are on the rise as the Jan. 30 elections near.

"It's best to be hopeful about the next four years," said Kellie Shanahan, a Republican and a teacher from Wilmington, N.C. "If we're not, it won't be good for our country."

Public perceptions of the president's personal strengths are his biggest asset today.

Nearly two-thirds of those polled described Bush as likable, strong and intelligent. A majority said he is dependable and honest.

Close behind Iraq in public concerns for Bush's second term is the economy, which moved past terror-

ism as a top concern in AP polls in the past two months. Social Security was named as a top issue by only 9 percent, taxes by 2 percent.

After picking up in 2004, the economy probably will slow this year, influenced by rising interest rates, higher energy costs and the lack of a new tax cut, economists say.

People were relatively optimistic about their own personal finances in the next year. Four in 10 said they expect their own situation to improve; a similar number said they believe it will stay the same.

Some who express doubts about Iraq say they understand why Bush is trying to change that region of the world.

"Parts of the Middle East live in a state of mind that's a thousand years back in history," said Thomas Callow, a Democrat from Canton, Ohio. "They do need to be brought up with the rest of the world."

"But I don't know that we have to invade every little country we have a problem with."

The poll of 1,000 adults was taken Jan. 10-12. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



David Moncrieffe, top, from Orlando, Fla., and Mike Gilchrist, bottom, from Washington, D.C., put a final coat of paint on a camera stand in front of the U.S. Capitol on Saturday. Six out of 10 Americans say they feel hopeful about President Bush's second term, according to an AP poll.

World War II veteran prepares to attend 5th inaugural ceremony

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A 94-year-old military hero who has seen four presidents sworn in is heading to Washington this week to witness a fifth inauguration.

Jose De Mendoza Lopez is the oldest living Latino Medal of Honor recipient. He plans to attend the second inauguration of President Bush on Thursday with two of his five children and several grandchildren.

Lopez is eagerly anticipating another visit to the White House after receiving an invitation. He has seen the inaugurations of presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Reagan and George H.W. Bush. The World War II veteran received the Medal of Honor after he gunned down more than 100 Germans on the second day of the monthlong Battle of the Bulge 60 years ago. He has also been knighted by the Belgian government.

The resolve that he has had since he was a boy in Veracruz, Mexico, has not faded. He still works out three times a week, although he suffers from arthritis.

Lopez recalled that his mother, a seamstress, was too weak from tuberculosis to run her sewing machine.

"I would help her push the pedals" with his hands, Lopez said.

Despite Lopez's honors, he has received little recognition in San Antonio, his home for 32 years, a military historian said.

"His story is proof that nothing is impossible in life," said Fernando Rey, who is trying to raise \$247,000 to develop a television screenplay on Lopez's life.

His heroism on the morning of Dec. 17, 1944, has already been the subject of a public television documentary. At a machine gun post in woods near Krinkelt, Belgium, he spotted a German Tiger tank advancing toward his infantry company. He opened fire, and kept firing as he prayed to the Virgin of Guadalupe, even as a shell blast knocked him over and incoming gunshots continued.

Lopez saved his unit and gave U.S. troops time to rally against the German drive.

"I believe any man would do the same thing," Lopez told journalist Bill Moyers after returning to the site in 1989.

After the war, though, he and his family were called "dirty Mexicans" and refused service at a Brownsville, Texas, restaurant.

"His values come from something that Americans here don't identify with," said Rey, who hopes to describe Lopez's heroism to students in Texas schools.



GENERAL MOTORS/AP

This 2006 Cadillac DTS Presidential Limousine will make its debut Thursday during President Bush's inaugural parade. GM, whose luxury Cadillac brand has provided transportation for numerous presidents, will introduce the actual production model of the DTS at next month's Chicago Auto Show.

New limo to debut at parade

BY JOHN PORRETTO
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Cadillac enthusiasts may get an idea what the brand's newest model will look like when President Bush rides down Pennsylvania Avenue on Thursday.

Bush will take part in the inaugural parade in a jet-black, Cadillac DTS limousine produced by General Motors Corp. It will provide a glimpse of the design direction of the mass-produced version of the 2006 DTS.

"General Motors and Cadillac are proud to write this latest chapter in American automotive history," said GM Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner in a new release Friday.

GM, the world's biggest automaker, will intro-

duce the production version of the DTS at next month's Chicago Auto Show.

Similar to the production DTS, Bush's limousine highlights Cadillac's redesigned front and rear, while integrating the brand's signature egg-crate grille up front.

The president's hand-crafted limousine is longer, wider and taller than the production model, and it is equipped with state-of-the-art protection and communication systems. It seats six and the rear seat features a concealed, foldaway desktop.

Cadillac spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki said she could not discuss specifics of the arrangement between GM and the government, such as the cost of the vehicle or how many are produced.

GM has produced limousines and other specialty vehicles for U.S. presidents, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries since the early 1900s.

Standardized driver's ID creates privacy debate

BY ROBERT TANNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Privacy advocates are warning that the new federal standards for driver's licenses — a common form of photo identification in the United States — will centralize information that can be misused. Government officials say they're just trying to close a security loophole, and that the worries are overblown.

The federal identification overhaul that became law last month — while creating a new national intelligence director and beefing up border patrols — also aims to close loopholes for identity fraud that some of the Sept. 11 terrorists used to get aboard the jets they hijacked in 2001. People boarding U.S. airplanes must show photo identification.

Driver's licenses vary by state, but they all feature a photo and personal information such as home address and date of birth.

"There is a strong sense of pro-

tection of privacy by all of the administrators of DMV (department of motor vehicle) records, because we know the value of the information we've been entrusted with," said George Tatum, North Carolina's Department of Motor Vehicle commissioner.

The small provision in the massive intelligence overhaul doesn't take effect immediately. It requires a year-and-a-half of deliberation by state and federal officials, and others.

States can opt out — refuse to make changes to their driver's licenses that will be required under the federal law — but then the licenses would be useless for any federal purpose, from getting benefits to boarding an airplane guarded by federal screensers.

The intelligence law aims to standardize the documents drivers present to get a license, the ways DMV workers verify that those documents are authentic, the information included on a license and the steps authorities

take to ensure licenses can't be forged. The law also requires that licenses can be read by machines.

In years past, the market for fake driver's licenses was driven by teenagers hoping to get into a nightclub or repeat drunk drivers who lost their licenses trying to get back on the road.

Now, identity theft is a bigger problem, and terrorists a bigger fear.

Many of the law's specifics have yet to be decided. Will licenses include biometric information like fingerprints or retinal scans? Will "machine-readable" mean bar codes or radio frequency identification systems — in which a tiny computer chip transmits data and can theoretically be used to track location?

Some state groups, including the National Conference of State Legislatures, opposed the proposals to have the federal government take control of what has traditionally been solely under states' control — though states

Law to combat driver's license fraud

New federal standards aim to combat identity fraud — and terrorism — by beefing up requirements for driver's licenses. The law standardizes the documents needed to obtain a license and mandates that they be readable by machine.

Some proposed security changes to standardized driver's licenses

Person's date of birth

Full legal name and address of principal residence

Law aims to regulate

- Documents drivers present to get a license
- Verification that documents are authentic
- Ability to ensure that licenses can't be forged

Source: Department of Homeland Security

have already been moving ahead to tighten the licensing process.

Advocates in Congress were given a big boost by recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission, which noted the ease with which terrorists got licenses. Still, language the House approved that would have barred driver's licenses for illegal immigrants was struck from the measure that became law. At least nine states now allow such licenses.

Civil libertarians warn that the push to make the driver's license

the "gold standard" for ID will only make it easier to steal someone's identity — and will increase the value of counterfeit licenses, undermining the hopes that these steps will provide better security. "Let's say someone steals your driver's license and substitutes their biometrics on there, and basically puts their identity on that card. They then have an official document that says they are you," said Mary Johnson at the American Civil Liberties Union.

"How do you prove you are you?"

College designs class around mammoth discovery

BY TERRY HILLIG

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Students at Principia College in Elsah don't have to trek hundreds or thousands of miles to participate in one of the country's most significant paleontological digs.

In fact, they don't even have to leave campus. The 17,500-year-old bones of a woolly mammoth known affectionately as "Benny" (after the man who found him) are being carefully excavated in the middle of the Principia campus, only yards from dormitories and academic buildings.

Principia employee Benny White thought he had found something significant one spring day in 1999 when his backhoe hit a piece of white material while he was excavating for a manhole between two dormitories, Rackham Court and Gehner House.

White was right. Faculty members quickly identified the object as the tooth of a mammoth. Another bone was visible in the pit. The professors knew they had something interesting but they were unsure just how interesting it might be — whether the objects were an isolated find or part of a larger set of skeletal remains.

But they were sure of one thing. The excavation would be carried out carefully and in a way that involved and educated Principia students in the process. The pit was refilled to protect the remains until that could be arranged.

"We didn't go back to the site until the spring of 2002," said Janis Trewworg, who supervises the mammoth dig and teaches classes that are based on it. She joined the Principia faculty in 2000 after 25 years with the Illinois State Geological Survey.

"I wasn't ready to start something so novel. I hadn't taught before."

As a geologist, Trewworg was familiar with soils and rock. She enlisted the help of experts in paleontology — the study of an-



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/KEITH

Principia College student Katie Crocker takes a last look at Benny the mammoth as volunteers prepare to cover the dig site with plastic and insulation for the winter.

cient plants and animals — and experts on loess (pronounced "luss"), the type of soil that covered Benny.

A course based on the mammoth was developed, and the first class was offered during the spring quarter of 2002.

Since then, students have carefully uncovered about 50 percent of the mammoth's skeleton, including two tusks, the left femur (thigh), the left and right humer-

us (upper arm), the shoulder blades, vertebrae, ribs, more teeth and several foot bones.

The tusks are still in the ground, attached to the skull. Trewworg doubts that the mandible, or lower jaw, will be found. It may have been inadvertently destroyed in some earlier campus excavation.

Benny seems to be lying on his left side. So far, there are no clues to the cause of his

death. Animals that suffer a lingering death are typically found near a water source, but Benny is atop a bluff above the Mississippi River valley on one of the highest points in the immediate area.

The location suggests a sudden death, but Trewworg doubts Benny was killed by another animal or animals.

"If he was a healthy, full-grown male, he could have defended himself from any known predator," she said. Suggestions for the cause of death have included lightning or a prairie fire or even a dust storm.

The experts believe Benny was 39 to 43 years old when he died.

Trewworg said Benny was on his sixth and final set of teeth, and the estimate of his age is based on a comparison to modern elephants. A woolly mammoth's normal lifespan was 60 to 70 years. Trewworg said the bones stayed together and were reasonably well-preserved, probably because they were quickly covered by loess — the windborne dust from the river valley below. The loess is 40 to 50 feet thick on the bluffs around Elsah.

Benny lived toward the end of the Pleistocene Epoch, which began about 1.65 million years ago and ended about 10,000 years ago. It was a time when ice sheets periodically covered northern portions of North America and Eurasia.

Woolly mammoths were among the largest land mammals that ever lived in North America. Benny's femur is 4 feet, 2 inches long. He is estimated to have stood nearly 11 feet tall at the shoulders and to have weighed 6 to 8 tons. On average, mammoths were slightly larger than modern African elephants.

Trewworg said that the excavation would continue for at least two or three more years but that the lab work on the bones might continue for much longer.

Trewworg said it was her "goal and dream" to display a re-creation of Benny's skeleton in the space now occupied by a lab in the interpretive center that adjoins Principia's new science center. The display would be built from plaster casts of the bones, not the actual bones.

FACES

Grace takes fire

BY HANH NGUYEN
Zap2it.com

Topher Grace, who often mouths off to his sitcom father on Fox's "That '70s Show," is once again giving gray hairs and grief to the older generation in his latest feature "In Good Company."

The comedy — written and directed by Oscar-nominated scribe Paul Weitz — centers on young upstart Carter Duryea (Grace) who takes over the job of Dan Foreman (Dennis Quaid), the head of ad sales for a leading sports publication. Dan isn't too keen on taking a pay cut, especially with another baby on the way and his daughter's recent acceptance into a pricey college. Carter can't be bothered to play nice at the office, however, now that his beautiful wife has left him.

Weitz wasn't that familiar with Grace's previous work but cast the 26-year-old actor — who's been compared to a young Jack Lemmon — based on his everyman qualities and comic timing.

"He made me laugh the most and, appeared sharply enough ... that one believed he could fire Dennis Quaid," says the director. "That's such an important part of the jeopardy in the movie."

Besides acting the audition, Grace also had a fellow castmate's support in landing the role. "There were a lot more famous people who wanted to play the part," says Weitz. "I was kind enough to put in his three cents ... and said that I could do it," says Grace. "So I'm grateful for that."

Although the acerbic rivalry between the two men on screen didn't translate to real life, Quaid couldn't resist playing a little initiation prank on his co-star. On the first day of shooting, Quaid had finished doing close-ups for a

Actor shows grown-up chops as he shoots for movie stardom

long dialogue scene when it was time for Grace to shoot his was "I think that Paul did [Dennis] side of it first so that I could get my flow going," explains Grace. "Then they turned the cameras around on me, and when I came back his stand-in was there, and he said, 'I'll be reading Dennis' lines during this scene.'"

Weitz, who admits that he's "mortified by practical jokes," took pity on his star. "Topher was sitting there sweating and annoyed, and I came out and I said, 'No, he's only kidding,'" says the director.

The younger actor gets back at Quaid in the film, however. Not only does Carter take Dan's job, salary and office, he adds insult to injury when he starts to date Dan's daughter Alex (Scarlett Johansson).

Although Grace never plays the hunk on screen, his characters never fail to inspire amorous feelings in beautiful ladies, who include Kate Bosworth, Erika Christensen, Laura Prepon and even "older woman" Laura Linney in "P.S. I Love You," an ambitious yet naive college freshman, is no different.

"She has this line, 'I'm cursed with a functional family,' the implication being that she is drawn to Carter's dysfunction ... to the fact that he is 26 years old and divorced," says Weitz.

"Carter has got everything on paper: he's got the right car, and

the right job and the right life and the right house," says Grace.

"(But) his parents were both absent (so) he's dating Dan's daughter as a consolation prize instead of actually being in the family."

In real life, Grace doesn't have to settle for any consolation prizes. Besides starring in one of Fox's most popular sitcoms, the actor has received critical raves for his big-screen performances as the clever but jaded druggie in "Traffic" and as the one redeeming feature of the lackluster teen comedy "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!"

Now, the National Board of Review has named his roles in "In Good Company" and "P.S." as the best breakthrough performances by an actor for 2004.

Even with all this attention, it's unlikely that the actor, who never went to acting school, will follow in the cocky footsteps of his character Carter Duryea.

"I'm really open in talking about how green I am and how much I just want to learn," says Grace. "A big part of it for me was just trying to shut up and observe."



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/AF

Actors Dennis Quaid, left, and Topher Grace appear in a scene from "In Good Company."

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Too young for 'Lights'

Plenty of people saw Tim McGraw's dark side in his portrayal of an alcoholic father in the movie "Friday Night Lights."

The country singer's three young daughters were not among them, however.

"I wouldn't want them to see Daddy like that and have them not be able to understand the difference," McGraw said of the film. The singer has three children, all under age 7, with wife and fellow musician Faith Hill.

The movie was McGraw's first venture into Hollywood. It stars Billy Bob Thornton and received favorable reviews for its depiction of a high school football team in Texas.

McGraw, 37, says he drew from personal experience to play the bullying father of a Permian Panthers player.

"I grew up in Louisiana and was around sports my whole life, so I always saw that kind of guy hanging around. It's an adaptation of a lot of people I knew growing up."

'Cheers' to catamaran

Actor Ted Danson served drinks on the TV show "Cheers." He used a bottle of bubbly to christen a cata-

maran that will spend five months searching the seas for pollution and threatened marine life.

Danson, a board member of the conservation group Oceana, christened the 71-foot vessel "Ranger" at Marina del Rey on Friday.

Oceana plans to sail the vessel to areas of Central America, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe that are threatened by pollution and over-fishing.

"Ranger will be Oceana's eyes and ears in the oceans," Danson said. "It will enable us to record vividly the wonders of the deep as well as the horrors of what is happening to our oceans."

Danson said he hoped the project will spur people to join the group's efforts.

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"Desperate Housewives" captured the award for best television series, musical or comedy. The cast members are, from left, Marcia Cross, Nicolette Sheridan, Felicity Huffman, Teri Hatcher and Eva Longoria.



Jamie Foxx won the award for best actor in a musical or comedy for his work in "Ray."



Hilary Swank, who appears in "Million Dollar Baby," and Leonardo DiCaprio, star of "The Aviator," each won Golden Globes for acting.

A 'Golden' night for Hollywood

'Aviator,' 'Sideways' take top film prizes as 'Housewives' scores on TV

BY DAVID GERMAN
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The Golden Globes set up an Academy Awards rematch between Hilary Swank and Annette Bening, while Jamie Foxx firmed up his Oscar front-runner status. And a win for "The Aviator" gave Martin Scorsese the edge for finally coming away with a best picture win at the Oscars. The Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" was the big winner with three Globes, including best dramatic picture, but Sunday night's ceremony was a split decision for Scorsese, who lost the directing prize to Clint Eastwood for the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby."

The road-trip comedy "Sideways" was named best musical or comedy film, while lead-acting honors went to Swank for "Million Dollar Baby," Bening for the theater farce "Being Julia," Foxx for the Ray Charles film biography "Ray" and Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes in "The Aviator."

Clive Owen and Natalie Portman won supporting-acting honors for the sex drama "Closer." Their wins were a bit surprising given that Morgan Freeman for "Million Dollar Baby" and Cate Blanchett for "The Aviator" had been viewed as likely favorites.

Foxx, considered the best actor favorite for the Oscars, which will be awarded Feb. 27, said backstage he was having the best night of his life, winning the prize for his uncanny re-creation of singer Charles, who died last year.

"It's a beautiful thing for Ray and everything he leaves us," said Foxx, who won for best actor in a musical or comedy. Foxx had a record three Globe nominations going into Sunday but lost the other two, supporting movie actor for "Collateral" and TV movie or miniseries actor for "Redemption."

Bening won the musical or comedy actress prize for "Being Julia," playing a conniving 1930s stage

diva exacting vengeance on the duplicitous men in her life. It was the first awards-worthy role Bening had had since "American Beauty" five years ago, when she was the front-runner but lost the Golden Globe dramatic prize and the best actress Oscar to underdog Swank for "Boys Don't Cry."

Not wanting to jinx her Oscar chances, Bening sidestepped a question backstage at the Globes about what she would wear to the Oscars. "Trick question," Bening quipped.

Swank, playing a fighter whose life turns tragic, won the dramatic actress Globe for "Million Dollar Baby." She downplayed the potential Oscar rematch with Bening.

"I don't really see it as competition," Swank said. "Annette's amazing, and she was so gracious to me five years ago when we were both nominated. She gave me good advice and she was gracious, and she's an inspiration."

"I think it's just unfortunate that things are seen as winners and losers, because in the end, the performances all speak for themselves and make every one, I think, a winner. I'm just honored to have my name mentioned with her."

The Globes serve as the most prominent ceremony in Hollywood's pregame show leading up to the Academy Awards. Globes are presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, whose small membership of about 90 people pales compared with the nearly 6,000 film professionals eligible to vote for the Oscars.

Yet the Globes historically serve as a solid forecast that helps set the odds for subsequent film honors.

Golden Globe winners gain attention that can put them on the inside track for prizes from acting, directing and other filmmaking guilds — momentum that often sticks with them right through Oscar night.



"Arrested Development" star Jason Bateman won for best actor in a musical or comedy series. "It's a pretty tough town and it's tenuous at best and if you do a good job and if it goes perfectly, you get fired at the end of it and you have to find another one," he said.



William Shatner of "Boston Legal" won for best supporting actor in a series, miniseries or TV movie. "I'm ready to party," Shatner said after his win. "I have a 6:30 call tomorrow to be Denny Crane. So I have until 5:30."

Some quotes from onstage and backstage at Sunday night's Golden Globe Awards:

"What comes into mind at the moment is, like, Mae West, although I probably wouldn't do it, you know. I'm a little too old for that role now. Maybe Carol Channing."

— Johnny Depp, when asked if there's any role he's itching to play

"If any of the actors are having difficult vocal movements, she's the person."

— Geoffrey Rush, paying tribute to his voice coach

"It was the only thing I still had clean."

— Rolfe Kent, a nominee for the original score of "Sideways," explaining why he wore a kilt

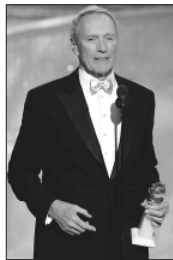
"I used to think it was corny when people would say people were looking down on you. And I didn't really, I didn't believe it. But I got a feeling."

— An emotional Jamie Foxx, thanking his grandmother Estelle, who helped raise him and who recently died

"I also want to thank you for having Prince, William Shatner, Mick Jagger and Puff Daddy on the same stage. That is a sign of the apocalypse"

— Robin Williams

— The Associated Press



"Million Dollar Baby" star Clint Eastwood won for best director.

The winners

Motion Pictures

Picture, Drama: "The Aviator"

Actor, Drama: Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"

Actress, Drama: Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"

Picture, Musical or Comedy: "Sideways"

Actor, Musical or Comedy: Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

Actress, Musical or Comedy: Annette Bening, "Being Julia"

Supporting Actor: Clive Owen, "Closer"

Supporting Actress: Natalie Portman, "Closer"

Director: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"

Screenplay: Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor, "Sideways"

Original Score: Howard Shore, "The Aviator"

Original Song: "All Habits Die Hard" from "Affair," by Mick Jagger and David A. Stewart

Foreign Language: "The Sea Inside," Spain

Television

Drama Series: "Nip/Tuck," FX

Actor, Drama: Ian McEwan, "Deadwood"

Actress, Drama: Mariska Hargitay, "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"

Musical or Comedy Series: "Desperate Housewives," ABC

Actor, Musical or Comedy: Jason Bateman, "Arrested Development"

Actress, Musical or Comedy: Teri Hatcher, "Desperate Housewives"

Miniseries or TV Movie: "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," HBO

Actor, Miniseries or TV Movie: Geoffrey Rush, "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers"

Actress, Miniseries or TV Movie: Glenn Close, "The Lion in Winter"

Supporting Actor, Series, Miniseries or TV Movie: William Shatner, "Boston Legal"

Supporting Actress, Series, Miniseries or TV Movie: Anjelica Huston, "Iron Jawed Angels"

Cecil B. DeMille Award

Robin Williams

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The futile search for a hard number

BY ROCKY LOPES

It's the disaster we'll remember for a lifetime. Already, most of us outside Florida have forgotten Hurricane What's-Its-Name and its three follow-ups, which devastated the state late last summer. Until reminded of it recently, how many remembered the deadly earthquake in the Iranian city of Bam just a year ago? But I'll wager that 5, 10, 15 years from now, the single word "tsunami" will trigger in any who hear it a near-total recall of the fearful events of Dec. 26, 2004.

That's because the scale of death in that catastrophe, occurring within a morning and in a matter of minutes, and striking so many nations, has catapulted it into a class of its own. In my experience, the single factor that most underscores the significance of any disaster is the number lives it takes. News reports of constantly changing, rapidly rising numbers in South Asia have made the deaths hit home, and our psyche is responding to the further suffering we know these lost lives will have.

That's why we have such a deep-seated need to know how many people died in South Asia. That's why relatives of the victims search so desperately for information about what precisely happened to their loved ones. But adding to the grim tragedy is the one certainty that remains in the tsunami's wake: We will never know with absolute certainty how many died, or just what happened to the missing. All we will have is a gross estimate of the death toll.

How do you count the dead when so many of them may never be found? This is the dilemma facing those trying to gauge the true scope of the tsunami's destruction. Tallying the victims, matching names and bodies, tracking the missing and trying to pinpoint their fate is difficult after any disaster. But it's magnified in this instance by a number of factors.

First is the absence of any solid population count to start with. No all countries have a formal and detailed census system like ours in the West. We're accustomed to the idea that each individual has an established identity that can be tracked through driver's licenses, credit cards and so on. This is not the case in more than half of the tsunami-affected countries, where governments have difficulty reporting the number of people who were lost when they don't have reliable data on who was there in the first place.

You can count bodies, of course, but many tsunami victims, swept out to sea, will never be found. If you knew that someone was in a specific area affected by a disaster, and if you've tried to but can't reach that person, it's easy to draw a conclusion that the person was killed. But until a body can be found, or a reliable witness can report what happened to the individual, you can't be sure.

As data analysis specialist Patrick Ball

told National Public Radio this month, what we're counting in this case are "memories rather than bodies, but we may never even be able to collect all the necessary memories to discover all who are missing. Entire families and villages were wiped out, and there may not in some cases be anyone left to report missing people. That's why some speculate that the final tsunami death toll could be artificially low.

Ironically, it's likely that in the end there will be a more accurate count of foreign visitors killed than that of natives, though it will take time. Tourists and temporary workers who enter a country legally are tracked at the port of entry by immigration officials. There are no records of where they go once in the country, but we're learning about the number of foreigners who were in the affected areas through credit card transactions, hotel registrations, transportation rentals and relatives or friends who have been calling their unshakable.

Some of those reported as missing, though, may not actually be. Many have been in one of the devastated countries, but nowhere near the areas hit by the tsunami. Sometimes, more than one person will report the same individual missing, who will then be listed multiple times.

Another complicating factor is the sheer number of countries involved. The tsunami directly affected 12 nations, but each one is reporting its own data. There's no single organization in the world that collects and reports casualty figures after a disaster. International organizations rely on individual country reports to arrive at estimates of the total missing. Depending on the timing of the report, different agencies will report different numbers, so the death toll figures may vary considerably.

What's more, each country has different methods for reporting casualties. Some countries will report counts of both the dead and those missing, but will not count as dead someone reported missing until they find a body or get some alternate confirmation of the person's fate. Other countries use more generalized methods to count casualties. Thailand and Indonesia are using estimates of village populations from previous informal census figures and subtracting the number of estimated survivors to arrive at an estimate of the deaths. Indonesia is also estimating the number of bodies in mass graves and multiplying by the number of mass grave sites.

Then there's the problem of official and unofficial sources of data, which can sow confusion and anxiety. This was the case here at home after Sept. 11, 2001. Immediately after the attacks, media reports indicated that there could have been more than 10,000 people killed in the World Trade Center, based on the numbers who worked there. The government issued no casualty numbers until deaths could actually be counted. When the news, the initial estimates were found to be too high.

That was a blessing, but often, the official and unofficial numbers can't be reconciled.

What's difficult for people to accept is that information collection after any disaster anywhere, but particularly in less developed countries, takes time, and that information changes rapidly. In an age of instant communication, we expect "breaking news" when major events happen. But after the tsunami, many areas were cut off from phones, radios or satellite links. With no communications, governments just didn't know how many people were affected. Emergency workers worry more about areas we don't hear from right after a disaster than the areas we do.

Once officials knew that communications were disrupted, the only way to know how many people had been killed or injured was to inspect the affected areas. It took hours to get to some areas near major cities, and days to get to others. Once searchers arrived and established communications, they sent reports, including initial estimates of missing and dead people. Even more than a week later, some remote areas had not been reached.

Every day still, the numbers change, and they will keep doing so. Now, in addition to the direct deaths caused by the tsunami, there are indirect deaths to consider — those due to heart attack, trauma, injury, water-borne or communicable disease, all triggered by the event.

And the figures affect us. They leave a sense of loss and waste, a gnawing feeling of impotence and a stark, and haunting, realization: Every life counts. But sometimes, tragically, every life's longer last can be counted.

Rocky Lopes, former manager of disaster education with the American Red Cross for 25 years of experience in the field of disaster preparedness and response. He is now an independent consultant specializing in public relations, training and outreach. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

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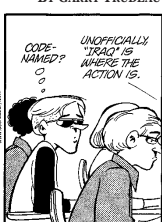
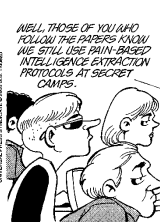
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Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Do-nothing nostalgia limits Social Security

It's telling that those who want to keep Social Security just as it can only offer the same old excuse: "There's no crisis." This rationale for rejecting the use of private investment accounts as part of Social Security reform comes from people who call themselves "progressive," no less.

What their call for inaction really tells us is that they're visionless reactionaries.

They can only see making changes to Social Security in reaction to a "crisis." So they'll wait it out, even though there are huge problems ahead for this entitlement program for retirees.

True, Social Security isn't bankrupt — just yet. In as little as 13 years, by 2018, when the bulk of my baby boom generation finally retires, Social Security reserves no longer are expected to be building up the system. By 2042 or maybe 2052, Social Security would no longer have the trust-fund assets to cover retiree benefits because the ratio of workers to retirees keeps narrowing.

Of course, those projections are conservative. They undercut the growth in immigrants, as compared to today's reality, ignoring how immigrants can pump up the work force to help pay for retirees' benefits. They also play down the potential for strong economic growth overall in the future.

Another valid point: If the government would stop borrowing from the plan's "trust fund" surplus — remember Al Gore's "lock box"? — to cover the cost of a slew of programs and all of those Bush

tax cuts, Social Security would be healthy years longer. That argument, though, ignores the bigger issue of what Social Security should be in the 21st century.

Bottom line: Americans are being short-changed. Social Security can be much more than it is today. That's what Democrats should be looking at achieving. Instead, they simply want to protect a program one of some kind of misplaced nostalgia for what it meant to be "progressive" in FDR's day.

There's no dispute that Social Security, fashioned under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, is a compact with the elderly and has done more to help retirees keep a decent, though fast-eroding, standard of living than anything else. Coupled with Medicare's health insurance benefits, Social Security has helped people over 65 keep their dignity. And those fortunate enough to have worked in companies that offer pensions, or to have earned enough to invest in markets, get extra "wiggly room" to enjoy their golden years — thanks to Social Security.

Yet Social Security could stand some major tinkering. It was fashioned during another time for another world. Today's global economy demands a new look at a system that's barely keeping up with inflationary pressures for those who count on it as their only retirement income.

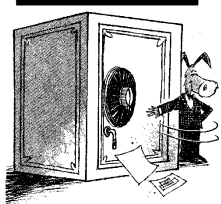
Politically speaking, no administration or Congress in the future would let Social Security go off-budget. They would be voted out of office. So in a sense, the word "crisis" is a loaded political term that President Bush employs precisely because he knows the political odds are that change will come only in reaction to a crisis — not because of needed forward-thinking.

It's a shame that Bush has opted to use such disingenuous language to move the debate on Social Security forward. Both

THE DEMOCRATS' 2-STEP PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY...

1. CREATE A LOCK BOX

2. INSERT BUSH



sides exaggerate for their own purposes.

The reality is Social Security reforms will require tough decisions about delaying retirement age, cutting back on benefits for those who choose to use a portion of their payroll taxes for investments and sticking tough to the promise that if markets tank, individual investors who opt out of a portion of Social Security won't get bailed out by Big Brother. And the cost of transferring to a private system, even if the reform only allows workers to invest a small percentage of their payroll taxes, can't be whitewashed. Whatever money workers take out of the system for investment will have to be made up by government in the short term to ensure that current retirees' benefits continue.

The goal of allowing future generations to use part of their Social Security payroll

taxes for private investment accounts is a worthy pursuit. How that's done is what should matter.

It should be a system that helps the poorest workers make wiser decisions about investments and not just a system that serves the rich and middle class, who are familiar with investing. Otherwise, we would be stealing the hopes of low-income workers to make the rich richer.

That's unacceptable. I'm no Chicken Little on Social Security reform. Never have been. Nor do I cry wolf, as Bush is doing, on the current system's viability.

The point is, we can do better for future generations — if only politicians on both sides have the gumption to dream big but tell it straight.

Myriam Marquez is an editorial-page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Ruling returned some sanity to federal sentencing

The (Baltimore) Sun

In the federal court system, few issues have been more contentious than the sentencing guidelines that Congress passed in the mid-1980s, ostensibly to make sure that criminal defendants received about the same time for the same crime.

But federal judges have long complained that the guidelines robbed them of their discretion in weighing different circumstances that might pertain to similar crimes. And defendants and their attorneys complained of onerous sentences that could not be altered. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court has restored some measure of sanity into the process. While the decision last Wednesday is complex, the overall result is welcome.

The guidelines, which went into effect in 1987, were meant to address wide disparities in sentencing, including among different racial and ethnic groups. They also aimed to make sentences more transparent and uniform. But as time passed, Congress kept adding layers to the system, allowing sentences to become more excessive and even Draconian.

As a practical matter, power shifted from judges, who are meant to be neutral, to prosecutors, who could virtually determine the outcome of a case by the charges they set. The entire process became more and more convoluted as well, making the sentencing guidelines resemble the tax code.

And the results were still unfair. That

was ultimately the court's view in the cases decided last week. Freddie J. Booker was convicted by a Madison, Wis., jury of possessing to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. After considering his criminal history and evidence at a post-trial hearing that he had actually distributed more than 500 grams, the judge increased what would have been a sentence of nearly 22 years, based on the jury's findings, to 30 years. Similarly, Ducan Fanfan was convicted by a jury in Portland, Maine, of distributing 500 grams of cocaine. Based on the jury's findings, his maximum sentence should have been 6½ years in prison. When the gov-

ernment pushed for a longer sentence, based on evidence at a post-trial hearing that he was responsible for distributing even more drugs and that he was an organizer of criminal activity, the judge refused.

That the guidelines allowed judges to increase sentences based on evidence that the jury did not consider, and under a standard — preponderance of the evidence — that was less rigorous than the jury's finding beyond a reasonable doubt, were key reasons why a 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court found the guidelines unconstitutional.

When it came to fixing the problem, an-

other 5-4 majority ruled that the guidelines should now be considered "effectively advisory" instead of mandatory.

Although some of the long-term implications of the rulings are still being sorted out, this is a welcome and long-overdue development, suggesting that judges can still defer to the guidelines without being handcuffed by them.

And while the court's decisions bring some much-needed balance to sentencing, they have provoked angry reactions from some members of Congress. Those members should give the court's decisions time to settle, and view them as restoring proper checks and balances, not promoting disrespect.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Anti-obesity program

DC WASHINGTON — The vending machine trade association is launching an anti-obesity campaign to encourage healthful food choices, hoping to fend off efforts to remove machines from schools and improve the industry's image as concerns grow about the fattening of America.

The program, "Balanced for Life," is being unveiled at an event featuring pro football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann.

The effort by the National Automatic Merchandising Association includes a color-coded rating system for food sold in vending machines, indicating healthful choices and those that should be eaten in moderation.

The group hopes to influence public opinion by encouraging nutrition education and physical activity programs in schools and through media coverage, the association's Web site says.

New Quecreek accident

PA SOMERSET — A trans- former explosion injured two men at the Quecreek Mine, where a celebrated rescue of nine trapped miners made international headlines. One of the injured miners also was part of the July 2002 rescue drama.

The state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration were trying to determine what caused the problem, which left the mine without power.

Twenty-two miners underground at the time power was cut escaped without incident using their flashlights, said DEP spokeswoman Betsy Mallison. It wasn't immediately clear when power would be restored.

Mallison said the explosion was not inside the mine, but at a substation outside. The injured men suffered burns to their hands and faces, she said.

Tsunami affects well

VA RICHMOND — The South Asian earthquake that spawned deadly tsunami waves also shifted water levels by at least 1 foot in a geologically sensitive Virginia well some 9,600 miles away from the epicenter, researchers say.

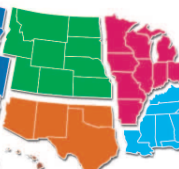
The well near Christiansburg, which started oscillating about an hour after the magnitude 9.0 quake near Sumatra on Dec. 26, is particularly sensitive to movements in the earth and is monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey.

David Nelms, a groundwater specialist with the USGS in Richmond, saw the changes from his computer.

Suspected meth lab

AR RUSSELLVILLE — Police busted a restaurant they say doubled as a methamphetamine lab and quarantined food that may have been cooked with some of the same utensils used to produce drugs.

Police who raided the West Main Cafe in Arkansas on Wednesday found methamphetamine in a room next to the kitchen, coffee filters with drug residue, and other ingredients used to make the drug, said Larry Johnson, director of the



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

district drug task force.

"We don't know how long this has been going on. Apparently, though, all the food in that building is kaput," said health inspector John Jones, who checked and passed the restaurant on Dec. 28.

Preacher collapses, dies

FL OVIEDO — A Presbyterian minister collapsed and died at the pulpit after saying "And when I go to heaven ..." his colleague said.

The Rev. Jack Arnold, 69, was nearing the end of his sermon at Covenant Presbyterian Church when he grabbed the podium before falling to the floor, said the Rev. Michael S. Beats, the church's associate pastor.

Before collapsing, Arnold quoted the 18th-century Bible scholar John Wesley who said, "Until my work on this earth is done, I am immortal. But when my work for Christ is done ... I go to be with Jesus." Beats said in a telephone interview.

Judges can right errors

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire courts have joined most of the nation's judicial systems that allow judges clear authority to correct legal mistakes made by their colleagues and lawyers.

A year ago, a Bedford man

sought a new trial on his six stalking convictions, arguing that his trial judge gave the jury bad instructions.

The state Supreme Court refused — not based on the instructions, but because neither the man nor his lawyer had raised the complaint at trial.

Until Nov. 1, court rules required lawyers to "preserve" a complaint at the trial level if they wanted to raise it later on appeal. Otherwise, defendants' only alternatives were to call their lawyers ineffective and seek new trial.

The new "plain error rule" applies to criminal and civil cases and is modeled on a federal rule. It allows a judge at any level of court to correct a mistake even if the parties didn't bring it to the judge's attention.

Jailhouse infections

PA PHILADELPHIA — A federal jury has awarded \$1.2 million to two former inmates who developed abscess wounds from a drug-resistant skin infection that swept through a county jail in 2001 and 2002.

The jury ruled that Bucks County prison officials failed to get the men prompt medical treatment. Kevin Krell, 27, and Benjamin Martin, 23, said they begged for help for weeks as their infections spread.

Martin said he suffered nerve damage in both legs after the infection rooted in his hip. Krell said prison staff ignored his requests for a doctor as the infection traveled through his body.

Public drinking law

FL JACKSONVILLE — A month before thousands of fans arrive in Jacksonville for the Super Bowl, a judge ruled the city's ban on drinking alcohol in public is unconstitutional.

Duval County Judge Charles Coffey ruled that Jacksonville's law has been selectively enforced and gives too much authority to the mayor to make exemptions.

The decision stems from a challenge to the arrest of three homeless men charged with drinking beer in the city's Treaty Oak Park, located in an area where Super Bowl fans will be allowed to drink.

The park is inside an entertainment zone adopted by the city council in May. Beginning 18 days before the Feb. 6 Super Bowl, laws against open containers, noise pollution and outdoor alcohol sales on city property will be suspended in the zone.

Restocking sturgeon

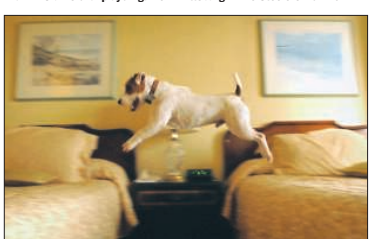
LA NEW ORLEANS — More than 10,000 pallid sturgeon bred in hatcheries have been released into the lower Mississippi River basin as part of a multistate effort to save the ancient fish known for its shovel-shaped snout and armor-like plates.

Since October, state and federal biologists in Louisiana released 6,478 juvenile sturgeon into the Mississippi and 3,576 into waters that flow into the Atchafalaya and Red rivers. The bottom-dwelling pallid sturgeon, known as one of the ugliest and least understood creatures in the Missouri and Mississippi river systems, was placed on the federal endangered species list in 1990.



Dedicated fan

Don Galla, from Altoona, Pa., watches the Pittsburgh Steelers play the New York Jets in an AFC divisional playoff game in Pittsburgh. The Steelers won 20-17.



Small but mighty

Shiner, a 2-year-old Parson Russell terrier owned by Sharon and Mike Shea of Dodgeville, Wis., makes himself at home by jumping on the beds after checking in to the Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship dog show in Tampa, Fla.



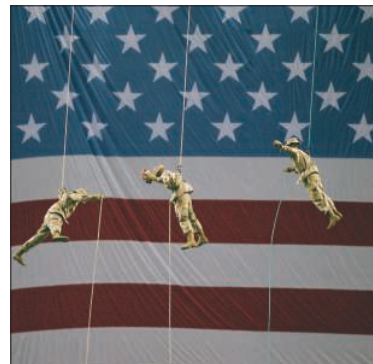
Vigil for victims

Aminah Kadir, center, of Silver Spring, Md., who is a native of Indonesia, and Sandra Ladds, right, of Arlington, Va., participate in a candlelight vigil for the tsunami victims at the Indonesian Embassy in Washington.



Sharing the road
Petersburg, Alaska.

Jennifer Dupree, left, and her quarter horse named Cash wait for a snowmobile to pass on the Twin Creeks logging road on Mitkof Island north of Petersburg, Alaska.



Delivering the game ball
Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, rappel to deliver the game ball for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio. The game featured many of the top high school football players in the country.



Slippery jaunt
British ice climber Simon Yates looks down to talk to his nine students near Keene Valley, N.Y., during the annual Adirondack International Mountaifest.



Chilled landscape

An arctic-like scene is shown at Brighton Beach on the North Shore of Lake Superior in Duluth, Minn., as the temperature sat at -17 Fahrenheit.

Irked at 'crazy' bear

VT MONTPELIER — A company that sells cuddly Teddy bears through the mail has angered mental health advocates with a special item for Valentine's Day.

The Vermont Teddy Bear Co. is featuring a 15-inch bear in a straitjacket. The \$69.95 stuffed animal is called the "Crazy for You Bear" and comes with its own commitment papers.

"This bear was created in the spirit of Valentine's Day and as with all of our bears it was designed to be a lighthearted depiction of the sentiment of love," the company said in a statement.

Mental health advocates believe the bear is "a tasteless use of marketing that stigmatizes persons with mental illness," said Jerry Groessel, executive director of the Vermont chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

The company said it would discontinue the bear, but not before Feb. 14.

"We recognize that this is a sensitive, human issue and sincerely apologize if we have offended anyone," the firm said.

Plane crash kills 1

TN KNOXVILLE — The president of a flying club died after his airplane crashed into the woods south of the city.

Pat Young, 52, and Dorothy Young, 45, of Seymour, Tenn., were the only occupants of a single-engine Beechcraft 35 Bonanza that went down on the shore of Fort Loudoun Lake, officials said.

The aircraft was hung up in the forest's canopy, and the Youngs were trapped for nearly 5½ hours before rescuers were able to lower them from the wreckage.

Despite prolonged efforts to resuscitate him, Pat Young died minutes after he was removed from the plane. Dorothy Young was taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center, where she was listed in serious condition.

Support for seat belts

NH CONCORD — The Association of New Hampshire Police Chiefs is supporting a mandatory seat-belt law for the first time.

The move follows a rise in highway deaths to 167 in 2004, up from 119 in 2003. New Hampshire is the only state that doesn't require seat belts for everyone in a car. Currently, only occupants 17 or younger have to buckle up.

Big sweep for GOP

GA ATLANTA — Republicans completed their takeover of state government by taking the reins of the State House for the first time in 135 years. The Republican House completes a state sweep that began two years ago when the GOP won the governor's office and Senate. Rep. Glenn Richardson was elected the first GOP House Speaker since Reconstruction.

Too warm for winter

NY NEW YORK — Strike two, they're out.

City officials, who had postponed the Winter Festival 2005 for a week because it's been too warm to make artificial snow, announced that the party is officially off until next year.

"To our dismay, Mother Nature wasn't on our side this year," Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe said in a statement.

"This was a difficult decision to make, but, ultimately, the only one we could make," he said. "Winter Festival is one of our favorite annual events. The weather may not have cooperated this year, but we anticipate a flurry of winter fun for Winter Festival 2006."

Investigating fraud

MI DETROIT — Federal authorities said they are investigating groups that may have helped thousands of people fraudulently obtain state driver's licenses.

Authorities said they suspect the groups brought people to Michigan to get licenses they likely couldn't get in other states, charging them a large fee.

"We saw an alarming amount of ... cases where groups were bringing criminals or illegal aliens to Michigan for the sole purpose of obtaining a Michigan driver's license," said Brian Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the Detroit office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "I don't think it is out of the question to say that there are thousands of them out there."

Authorities are targeting groups that allegedly sold licenses while Michigan lagged behind other states with its residency requirements. The state beefed up its rules last month, requiring adults applying for their first license or personal identification card to provide documentation they live in Michigan.

A spokeswoman for Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land, Kelly Chesney, said the state continues to work with the federal government to reduce fraud.

Tuition increases

TN NASHVILLE — The state program that sells prepaid college tuition is raising the cost of a year's education most state schools by \$371 to \$5,080. State Treasurer Dale Sims said the new fee covers a gap between tuition inflation and investment earnings. Participants pay for a child's future college tuition at today's prices.

Fast delivery

MO UNION — Ann McDonald knew the baby was coming and there wasn't a hospital in sight, so she pulled over and delivered the child outside — appropriately enough — a McDonald's restaurant.

Chayse Westin McDonald was due that Wednesday. But on the Sunday before, Ann McDonald knew her time was getting near — and fast.

Problem was, there is no hospital in this eastern Missouri town, and the closest one was 15 minutes away.

McDonald, whose husband is fighting in Iraq, and the child's grandmother, Linda Cuneo, got in the car, but it soon became evident they wouldn't make it to a hospital. So they pulled over at a McDonald's in Union.

The baby was born beneath the golden arches.

"Of course everyone is like, 'Are you going to name him Ronald?'" Ann McDonald said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The last hours of the Capricorn sun are for evaluating your progress over the last four weeks. Don't skip the review. It's crucial in figuring out where you should go next. In the coming weeks, there will be many eclectic influences and opportunities for distraction, so it's important to get focused now. Pen and people are your finest concentration aids.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 19). This year, you find out you are loved by many. All you have to do is create opportunities for people to show you. Letting down your guard helps. You're showered in gifts through the winter, but in the spring, you're more concerned about giving and teaching others. Investments pay handsomely in April. Love signs are Cancer and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Establishing a consistent habit is your impossible order. And it's well worth the discipline it takes. Believe this: When you wake up every day with a single purpose, suddenly, one day, it happens — you transform.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Daunting prospects ahead produce a strong reaction from you — like the pretty girl in a horror flick, you react in shock and terror. Though it's hard to see it now, your power is stronger than the monster's power.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Giving 10 percent to a project is not only mathematically impossible, it's plain foolish. When you overdo, you deplete your resources and work against yourself. Instead, just do your best. Your best is enough.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your community needs you. Fulfilling a purpose for the group is one of the most satisfying ways you can spend your time. Tonight, if you're not guarded, someone effusively sentimental brings you into his or her mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Each era has a unique spirit distinguishing

it from other periods, and this is why you may have trouble understanding the younger generation. Make the effort anyway. It's an enlightening experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll rise above the rabble and be singled out for a specific job. It's hard work being elite, and you may long to return to the crowd and enjoy anonymity. Alas, it's not meant to be, so embrace your special status.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

There's a message you are burning to communicate. Make it short, direct and memorable. Someone at work asks you to advocate on his or her behalf. Do what comes naturally. You were born to lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Money may be tight, but this too shall pass. Rent a movie, and snoop-give with a sweetheart or friend. Get creative in the kitchen, and brown-bag your lunch. Frugal can be fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your home is a flurry of activity, as friends and family wish you well on the launch of an important project or change in status. Don't be afraid to ask for either more help or more privacy. Sophisticated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Someone close to you requires your TLC — it may even be a pet or favorite plant! It may even be you. Light a candle, quiet your mind, and listen to what your body is telling you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Physical efforts improve your attitude. However, your current fitness routine is getting a bit, well, routine. Fend off boredom by adding variety. Working out with a Gemini keeps things interesting and keeps you honest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

When a partner expresses a vision different from yours, things get rough. Nobody said collaboration was easy. But if the outcome is mutually beneficial, and if you want it bad enough, you'll try it out.

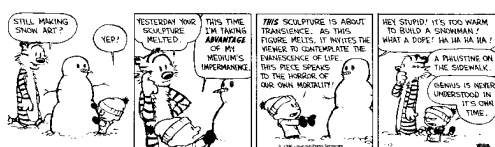
Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



asks you to advocate on his or her behalf. Do what comes naturally. You were born to lead.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



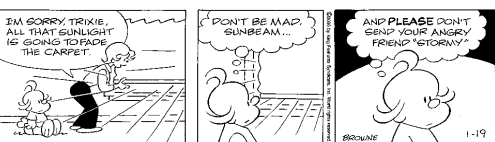
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



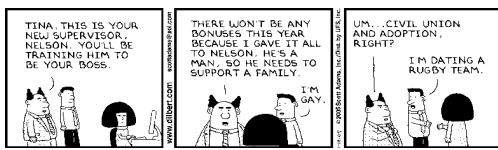
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



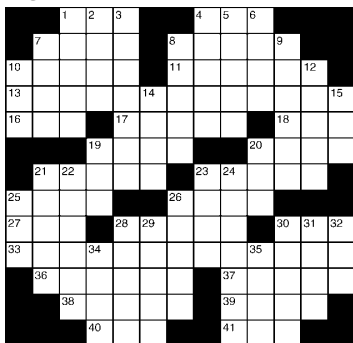
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Solidity
4 Mel of Cooperstown
7 It goes without saying
8 Binge
10 "The wonderful, wonderful cat"
11 Accessory for that little black dress
13 Prosperity, for many
16 Two, in Tijuana
17 Talk a blue streak?
18 Through
19 Toll
20 Suspenders
21 With 1-Down, patron of cripples
23 Comes together
25 Feedback fill
26 Minimal change
27 To and --
28 English potter
30 Afternoon social
33 Mr. Roarke's setup
36 Type of tea
37 Fusilianimous
39 Role for Barbra
39 Supplemented, with "out"

Down

- 1 See 21-Across
2 Eastern bigwig
3 Dictionary
4 Starts business
5 Profession
6 Region (Abbr.)
7 Interoffice e-mail, maybe
8 Friction flash
9 Football team
10 Craze
12 Goes a la Columbus
14 Brusque
15 Wrestling surface
19 Mich. neighbor
20 Morsel
21 Singer
22 Expiated
23 Sci-fi knights
24 Quick-walking
25 Vacationing
26 With demureness
28 Black
29 Sacred song
30 Circus staffer
31 Oklahoma city
32 Cookbook
34 Trampled (on)
35 Such as

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-19 CRYPTOQUIP

M K W P H F X G B L K Y P H H Q
C M I V W Y T P B B M D X
Z G B Z G L F C W D I L Z C M B ' C

L T Z G B B Q B M Z M D X B L C V
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A SKELETON PARTAKES OF DINNER, WOULD IT BE A SURE BET THAT HE PREFERS RIBS?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals T

People must eventually help selves

Dear Abby: I met "Evan," the man of my dreams, when I was 18. He was 21. We had been dating only five months when he was diagnosed with leukemia. I stayed by his side the whole time, although my friends said no one would blame me if I didn't. Evan is now finished with chemotherapy and is in remission.

I was there for him when his parents couldn't be. I gave him everything I had. I even dropped out of school so I could work full time to make ends meet. Since Evan has finished his treatment, we've been trying to piece our life back together, but he has been horribly depressed.

I have tried to help. I found a psychologist for him.

He agreed to go, then canceled the appointment. He re-enrolled in school this semester. However, I found out last night that he had stopped going to class a long time ago.

Dear Abby



He said it reminded him too much of how things had to be. He lied to me — and not for the first time.

To make matters worse, I had to tell his parents, because they had been paying for school and sending us money to help with the bills. He had refused to call them.

Abby, I love Evan with all my heart. His parents are offering to get him help. I'm torn between staying and leaving to build my own life. If he gets help for real, is it worth trying to save our relationship?

— Exhausted And Brokenhearted in K.C.
Dear Exhausted: You supported Evan when he could not help himself. Only he can fix his problems now. The longer you allow the status quo, the longer he will postpone taking responsibility.

If he continues to procrastinate, then recognize that it's time to leave and put your own life on

track. Do not feel guilty for doing so.

Dear Abby: This is a fan letter. A friend of mine gave me a copy of your booklet "Keepers." I keep it on my nightstand with my early morning reading material. I like the little essay "Hugging" so much that we adopted a version of it into our daily lives. Our family says, "Hey, I need a little vitamin H," and it is followed with a big hug. We have also invented "vitamin P," which means a loving little pat.

Thought you would like to know what a positive influence one of your letters has been to our family.

— Elizabeth Tyler Brown
Dear Elizabeth: Your letter warmed my heart. Everybody needs a diet rich in vitamins. My favorite is vitamin TLC, which I enjoy and endorse in liberal doses to everyone I love.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6944, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESMT

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PRAAK

QUILOR

ANSAUE

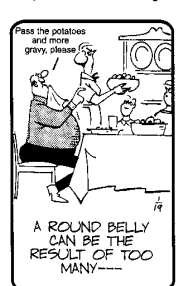
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRUTH EXILE HEIFER PROFIT

Answer: What inning did they pass the bottle around? — THE "FIFTH"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Try to befriend boyfriend's family

Dear Annie: I am a 25-year-old single mother. I've never been married, and the situation I'm in right now does not make me look forward to walking down the aisle.

I love "Gary" with all of my heart. We have dated for three years, and he eventually wants to marry, but his family is not so welcoming. I was the reason Gary moved out of his mother's home, and I am the reason he does not spend as much time with them as he used to.

Mind you, Annie, I do not stop him from seeing or calling them. I will never do that. His family, however, blames me. They start a lot of arguments. Last week, they lied to him about something I had said in order to make him angry with me. Fortunately, he didn't believe them, but it really upset me that they would stoop to that level.

My says he will marry me but I want a future with a man whose family welcomes me and

Annie's Mailbox



tries to me as one of their own. I don't see that happening here. How should I handle this? I'm afraid that our life together will be over before it begins.

Dear Annie: The potential in-laws sound difficult and unpleasant, but the important thing is Gary's attitude and support. If you believe that he will put you first, you have nothing to worry about. However, it wouldn't hurt to turn on the charm and try to warm up the relatives. Be friendly and let them know how important it is to you that Gary stay close to his family. It will help.

Dear Annie: I recently bought a set of 560 walke-talkies for my children, and they brought the sets over to their cousins' home to play. Their 9-year-old cousin "Lila" bent over the pool, and the walke-talkie fell in. The kids immediately fished it out, but it was not water-

proof and stopped working.

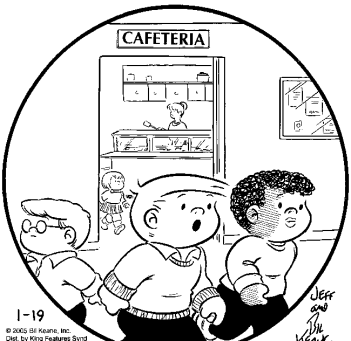
My brain wants her parents to pay for the replacement. My heart, however, understands that it was an accident, and since we have more money than they do, we should pick up the cost. But I want Lila to understand the consequences of her actions.

— Waterlogged in Florida
Dear Florida: Lila's parents should have offered to replace the broken unit. Since they have not, you can handle it in several ways.

You can pick up the cost and forget about it; you can ask the parents to replace it or pay half; you can ask that Lila make some kind of restitution by helping you shovel snow or wash your car; or you can tell Lila that she will not be able to play with your children's toys until she is a little older and learns to be more careful.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"I wouldn't want to be home-schooled, but I'd like to be home-fed."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur

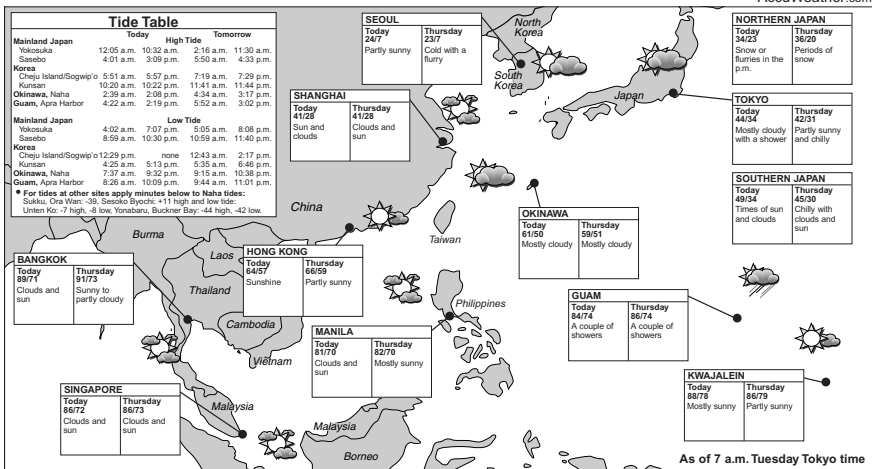


"Would you clean the driveway first, Dave? We wanna shoot some hoops."

Testing whether or not animals "kiss."

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Mostly sunny,
high 42, low 29.
Saturday: Partly sunny,
high 43, low 30.

KADENA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 63, low 54.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 68, low 63.

SEOUL

Friday: Sunny,
high 29, low 18.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 33, low 17.

MANILA

Friday: Partly sunny,
high 84, low 72.
Saturday: Partly sunny,
high 84, low 73.

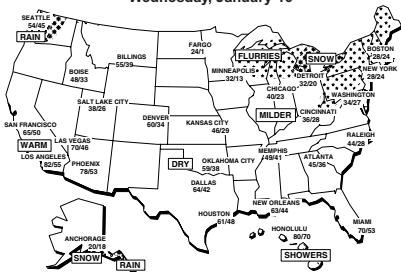
HAGATNA

Friday: Showers,
high 85, low 72.
Saturday: Showers,
high 83, low 77.

Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Albuquerque	57/32	Los Angeles	82/51
Amarillo	41/22	Little Rock	68/47
Anchorage	32/12	Louisville	64/39
Asheville	47/22	Miami	88/64
Baltimore	29/12	Milwaukee	87
Birmingham	38/18	Nashville	27
Bismark	51/22	New York	81
Boise	43/33	Omaha	15
Boston	25/6	Orlando	58
Brownsville	72/50	Philadelphia	30/17
Buffalo	16/8	Phoenix	70/47
Burlington	14/7	Pittsburgh	14
St. Charles	36/18	Portland, OR	47
Charlotte	47/14	Portland, ME	22
Chicago	41/8	Salt Lake City	64
Columbus, OH	16/6	St. Louis	23
Duluth	1/11	San Antonio	53
El Paso	32/12	San Diego	69
Hartford	25/8	San Juan	84/7
Helena	34/27	Tampa	58/37
Indianapolis	47/10	Tulsa	36/17
Jackeytown	49/27	Washington	71
Kansas City	25/14	Wichita	30/17

Wednesday, January 19



U.S. Extended Forecast

A fast-moving storm will swing a cold front through the Northeast Wednesday. Snow and flurries will affect much of the Ohio Valley, mid-Atlantic and New England. Snowfall amounts will generally be between 1-3 inches. Behind this storm, a fresh batch of arctic air will be pulled into the Great Lakes and Midwest. Meanwhile, quiet weather will be the rule across the Southeast. A large area of high pressure will keep the Southwest and California dry. Showers may wet parts of the Northwest. Snow flurries are expected in the northern Rockies. On Thursday and Friday, very cold air will reside over the East. High temperatures will average 10-20 degrees below normal.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/71	Iwakuni	48/31	Sasebo	49/35
Beijing	34/18	Kadena AB	61/50	Sapporo	34/23
Camp Casey	24/14	Kunsan AB	31/20	Seoul	24/7
Chickasaw	58/45	Kwajalein	41/31	Shanghai	41/31
Diego Garcia	87/78	Manila	81/70	Singapore	86/72
Gaetna	84/74	Misawa AB	38/25	Sydney	79/64
Hanoi	71/59	Osan	26/7	Taegu	38/19
Hong Kong	44/37	Perth	44/34	Taipei	42/32
Honolulu	80/70	Pusan	38/23	Tokyo	44/34

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	90/72	Budapest	33/23	Kabul	43/21	Nairobi	86/56
Athens	51/40	Buenos Aires	88/63	Kiev	26/17	New Delhi	68/40
Auckland	66/55	Cairo	57/42	Kuwait	70/43	Oslo	38/22
Baghdad	58/48	Cancun	72/61	London	45/14	Paris	38/28
Barbados	87/70	Cape Town	87/66	Mexico City	51/44	Rio de Janeiro	81/70
Barcelona	52/43	Geneva	30/28	Madrid	53/41	Rome	41/30
Berlin	33/27	Istanbul	46/38	Montreal	19/18	St. Petersburg	38/26
Bermuda	54/45	Jerusalem	57/45	Mogadishu	93/76	Stockholm	31/21
Brussels	39/27	Johannesburg	25/16	Nairobi	25/16	Sydney	28/18



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Desperate Wolfpack hang on to snap skid

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — With the game slipping away, and quite possibly the season, Brian Evtimov caught a pass from Eugin Atsur at the right time in just the right spot for North Carolina State.

"All the credit goes to him," Evtimov said. "He got me the ball."

Evtimov made that clutch three-pointer on his way to 17 points, and N.C. State beat No. 8 Georgia Tech 76-68 on Sunday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

Five players scored in double figures for the Wolfpack (11-5, 1-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who hadn't won since narrowly getting by Columbia last month. Cameron Bennerman finished with 16 points, and

Hodge had 12 of his 14 in the second half, but Evtimov scored the biggest points.

The Yellow Jackets (11-4, 2-2) scored 12 straight to get to 64-61, and N.C. State patiently ran its Princeton-style offense until Evtimov got an open look from beyond the arc. He swished the jumper to increase the margin to six with 2:14 left, and the Wolfpack hung on from there.

"I just did what I'm supposed to do," Evtimov said. "The pass came on time, on target, and I just have to make it."

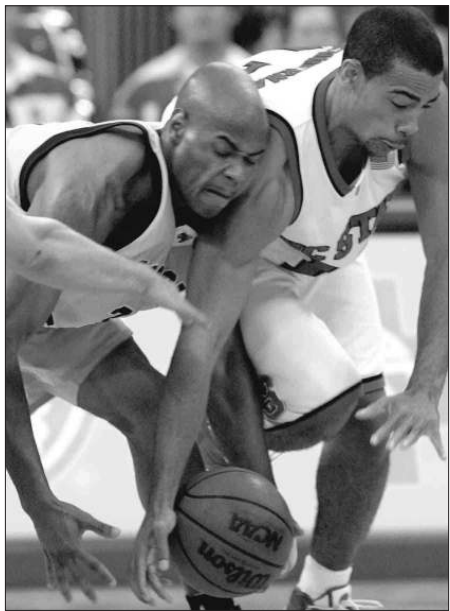
With a road trip to Virginia Tech and Maryland looming, another loss would have left N.C. State 0-3 in the conference for the first time in four seasons.

"We looked pretty desperate to me," Hodge said. "We just went out and gave it our all. We got the win, and I love to win, so I don't even want to talk about the past now."

With point guard Tony Bethel already on the sidelines with colitis, the Wolfpack didn't have senior Levi Watkins (flu) for this one. That left them with eight scholarship players, and only seven played.

It was enough, with freshmen Andrew Brackman and Gavin Grant taking advantage of the increased playing time. Brackman scored 12 points — including nine of the first 11 for N.C. State — and added six blocks, and Grant had a career-high 13 points.

Jack had 16 points and Isma'il Muhammad added 12 for Georgia Tech, which still missed guard B.J. Elder. He sat out his fourth straight game with a sore left ham-



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack, left, battles with N.C. State's Cameron Bennerman for a loose ball during the second half on Sunday. The Wolfpack ended their four-game losing streak.

string, leaving the team without its second-leading scorer.

Without him, the Yellow Jackets lost for the second time in five days during a trip to

Tobacco Road. They were routed 91-69 at North Carolina earlier this week.

"B.J. is definitely one of our best players, and you can't say that his absence doesn't

make a difference when we are out on the court," coach Paul Hewitt said. "At the same time, we know we have the personnel to win this game."

At least this one was a bit more competitive. After Hodge made two free throws to give N.C. State a 64-49 lead, Georgia Tech rallied, thanks to some heads-up coaching from Hewitt.

Hodge got that chance at the line after drawing an offensive foul from Jack, and during a timeout minutes later, Hewitt lobbied hard with referees Reggie Cofer and Terry Moore that Hodge simply flopped.

It worked. On the next Wolfpack possession, Hodge fell out of bounds after a shove from Jack but no foul was called, giving the ball to the Yellow Jackets.

They took advantage of the opportunity, using that 12-0 run to get within three. Jack started the run with a playground maneuver, throwing an inbound pass off the back of Jordan Collins and then scoring as he was fouled.

Muhammad followed with consecutive baskets, including a reverse dunk, to make it 64-61 before Evtimov made his three.

No. 5 Duke 80, Virginia 66: At Durham, N.C., Duke's "Big Three" once again made sure the Blue Devils stayed unbeaten.

J.J. Redick scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half to help the Blue Devils beat the Cavaliers.

Shelden Williams added 16 points, 11 rebounds and a career-best nine blocks for the Blue Devils (13-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who struggled to put away the Cavaliers but still won for the 20th time in 22 meetings. Daniel Ewing added 17 points despite injuring his left ankle late in the first half.

They were the only Blue Devils to score in double figures, the fifth time that has happened this season. But, as has been the case all season, it was good enough for a team that came into the season just eight recruited scholarship players.

"Our program has known how to win," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "These kids were in the Final Four, they could've won the national championship last year. Those three guys have been in a lot of ballgames and they've won most of them. They know how to win and they'll step up."

Beating the Cavaliers (9-5, 0-4) allowed Duke to remain one of four unbeaten Division I teams in the country. And it kept the Blue Devils near the top of a league with four teams ranked in the Top 10.

Glover guides Truth to Kadena Classic title

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — For Truth coach Dietrich Glover, just winning the game was going to be tough enough. But taking the court against his old mentor, Tony Jones, and his old team, Korea's Osan Defenders, made Monday's Kadena Basketball Classic championship game even tougher.

"I love that man with all my heart," Glover said with Truth captured the tournament title by topping Osan 74-66. "He was my coach and mentor. He's my best friend."

Glover is an Air Force staff sergeant with Kadena's 18th Security Forces, Jones, a civilian with the Defense Commissary Agency at Osan Air Base. When Glover was stationed at Osan, he assisted Jones for three years.

"It was very hard," Jones said of facing his former assistant. "He's so much alike in so many ways. He knows the game very well. I'm happy for him. I know we're going to meet again somewhere down the line

and next time, I won't be so easy on him."

Monday's showdown culminated a Kadena Classic originally scheduled for March. But it was moved up to January to replace the Martin Luther King Open Tournament, which Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Athletics officials called off due to troop deployments.

The showdown also capped a sometimes contentious tournament: In the three games leading up to the championship, five players and a coach were ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and a spectator was ordered to leave the gym.

Monday's first game, the loser's bracket final won by Osan 66-58 over the Okinawa Heat, was terminated with 51 seconds left after three Heat players were ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior.

The championship included no such rancor but began as a tight, physical, sea-saw battle, including five ties and eight lead changes in the first 9:50.

Truth pulled ahead by nine points, 39-30, by intermission.

"Everybody knows we play a zone, but because they [Defenders] played a hard

game against the Heat, we came out with a man-to-man" defense, Glover said. "They appeared to be tired after that first game."

The Defenders fought back, scoring the first 10 points of the second half, but Arlington Littlejohn's three-point play, with 12:46 left, put Truth ahead 45-42. Wayne Mobley helped keep Truth in front by scoring 13 of his 17 points in the second half.

"This is a game of peaks and valleys," Glover said. "We hit a valley to start the second half. I just told the guys to weather the storm until we hit another peak."

Down the stretch, three Defenders fouled out, none more important than All-Air Force forward Ramon Moss, who left the court with 8:40 left.

"That was pretty much that for us," Jones said of Moss, who led all scorers with 22 points.

The backbreaker came with 4:34 left, when the Truth's Carl Little — a former Defenders player when Glover assisted Jones — sank a three-point goal and was fouled.

"That was a big one," Little said. "I hadn't hit one since before the half. That kind of took the heart out of them. But it



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Tyrene Bullocks of the Osan Defenders tries to find room around Keith McCauley of Truth, Okinawa, during Monday's game.

was great to reunite with the old team and the old coach. It brought back a lot of things."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: orna@stripes.osd.mil

Singh birdies 18th to win Sony Open by one over Els

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Two weeks into a long year, Vijay Singh already was feeling the heat.

Coming off one of the greatest seasons in golf, the 41-year-old "Vijay" knew expectations would be higher than ever. It didn't help that last week he took triple bogey on the back nine, which ultimately cost him a chance to win the season-opening Mercedes Championships.

Singh was breathing easy late Sunday afternoon when he capped a flawless final round with a routine birdie on the 18th hole to win the Sony Open by one shot over hard-charging Ernie Els.

"Everybody thinks, 'Is he going to win again?' That could work against me," Singh said. "I think this is going to help. This is a great relief that I can start breathing again and go and play more comfortable the rest of the season. I'm looking forward to the rest of it. This is what I needed."

What he needed at breezy Waialae Country Club was the per-



Vijay Singh birdied No. 18 for the first time in the final round of the tournament to win the Sony Open on Sunday in Honolulu.

fect tee shot, and that's what he delivered.

Els had already completed his 18th hole with a birdie-bogey-18-hole eagle finish, the last one an 18-foot putt that allowed the Big Easy to post a score at 10 under par, tied for the lead.

The roar from the crowd after the eagle putt was so loud that it reached Singh, who was playing the 12th hole and suddenly knew exactly what happened — and what he had to do.

"I had six holes to go. I said, 'I

need a birdie without a bogey, and I think I can win it,'" Singh said.

He followed with five pars, then picked up his first birdie of the week on the par-5 18th. It wasn't easy, because Singh struggled with a drop on the tee, and anything too far to the right would run into the rough.

"To hit it where I did today, I could take another bucket of balls and not be able to hit that shot," Singh said. "I think it came out just perfect."

His utility club came up just short and 30 feet to the right, and Singh was able to use his putter from the first cut to roll the eagle putt to within 2 feet of the hole.

Singh finished at 11-under 269 for his 25th career victory, and the earliest he has won on tour.

It was a valiant bid by Els to win an unprecedented third straight Sony Open. He again missed several easy birdie putts during the week, and even a few on Sunday, but rallied with an amazing finish that kept everyone in suspense until Singh blistered his final drive.

Els made a 10-footer for birdie

on the 16th, knocked a 6-iron to within 3 feet on the 17th, then reached the 18th green with a 3-iron and holed the 18-foot eagle.

"I always felt I was going to be just a little shy," Els said.

"But I still had a great day. Vijay looked like he was playing solid. He didn't miss a fairway or a green coming in. He did what he had to do."

No one else did.

Shigeki Maruyama had a one-shot lead at the start of the final round, and a small army of Japanese fans who cheered every shot, from his drives to his tap-ins. But after making a birdie at No. 10 for a one-shot lead, he caved in.

First came a wayward tee shot into the rough and behind the trees at No. 12, leading to bogey. Then came an approach that sailed into the crowd on No. 14, and Maruyama had to make a 10-footer just to make bogey.

He never recovered, closing with a 71 to tie for third at 9-under 271 for Charles Howell II (67).

Brett Quigley stumbled early with three straight bogeys, then

rallied to get a share of the lead with a 15-foot putt on the 11th hole. But he too struggled to find the short grass and it caught up with him on No. 14, where he made bogey. Quigley later missed a 4-foot par putt on the 17th, ending his bid.

He wound up with a 71 and was at 8-under 272, along with Stewart Cink (65).

The Sony Open waited 20 years to get the No. 1 player in the world. Then, it played Singh like a forgotten man until he had a lei around his neck and the trophy in his hand.

First came 15-year-old Michelle Wie, the center of attention until she missed the cut with rounds of 75-74. Then it was Maruyama, as popular as anyone because of so many Japanese fans on the island.

But seeing Singh's name on the leaderboard got everyone's attention.

"He's at the top of his game right now," Els said. "His swinging well, he's doing everything really good. With all that talent, he's not going to go away."

All Singh wanted to do was remind everyone he was still there.

Rangers, 2B Soriano agree to one-year, \$7.5 million contract

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano and the Texas Rangers agreed Monday to a \$7.5 million, one-year contract, a raise of \$2.1 million.

It was long believed that the Rangers in last February's trade that sent Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees. Soriano hit 280 with 28 homers and 91 RBIs last year, making him the last of the season because of a strained left hamstring.

Assistant general manager Jon Daniels said the team could speak with Soriano later about a long-term deal. Soriano is eligible for free agency after the 2006 season.

Texas has two players remaining in arbitration: outfielder Gary Matthews Jr. and right-hander Carlos Almanzar. Players and teams are set to swap proposed salaries Tuesday, with hearings to be scheduled for next month.

Matthews started 77 games, had a team-high eight outfield assists and hit 275 with 11 homers, the second-highest total in his career. Almanzar was 7-3 with a 3.72 ERA in 67 games.

■ In other baseball signings:

■ Gold Glove shortstop Cesar Izturis avoided arbitration by agreeing Monday to a \$9.9 million, three-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Izturis, a switch-hitter who turns 25 next month, had by far his best season last year, hitting 288 with 193 hits, four homers, 62 RBIs and 90 runs. Izturis also was named MVP of the league with his first Gold Glove, committing only 10 errors.

Right-handed reliever Eric Gagne, the NL Cy Young Award winner in 2003, and left-handed starter Brad Penny are the two Dodgers left in arbitration.

■ Right-hander Tony Armas

Sports briefs

Jr. and the Washington Nationals agreed to a \$2.26 million, one-year contract Sunday, avoiding arbitration.

Armas is 32-41 with a 4.21 ERA in 102 starts spanning six seasons with Montreal, including 2-4 with the Nationals in 16 starts last year. His 2003 season ended in May with surgery on his pitching shoulder, which delayed his 2004 debut until June 1.

Armas, who made \$2.1 million last year, and Nationals right-hander Tomo Ohka filed for arbitration Friday. Unless they reach a deal first, Ohka and the Nationals will exchange figures Tuesday.

■ Left-handed reliever J.C. Romero and free-agent infielder Eric Munson agreed to contracts with the Minnesota Twins on Sunday.

Romero, who was eligible for arbitration, agreed to a two-year deal with a club option for a third. Twins spokesman Sean Hartin said, Munson was given a minor league deal.

The 28-year-old Romero went 7-4 with an ERA of 3.51 in 74 appearances for Minnesota last season. In six seasons, all with the Twins, he is 21-17 with 23 saves and a 4.49 ERA.

Munson became a free agent when the Detroit Tigers did not offer him a contract after last season. He hit .212 with 19 home runs and 49 RBIs in 2004.

■ Right-hander Brandon Ackers agreed Monday to a \$500,000, one-year contract, a raise of \$110,000.

Duckworth, 29, was 1-2 with a 6.86 ERA in 19 games last year and is 16-20 with a 5.09 ERA in 64

starts and 20 relief appearances in parts of four seasons. He was acquired from Philadelphia in 2003 along with right-handers Ezequiel Astacio and Taylor Buchholz in a trade for reliever Billy Wagner.

■ Twelve-time All-Star Roberto Alomar will try to rejuvenate his career with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, agreeing to a one-year contract after missing two months last season with a broken right hand and hitting just 263 in 56 games for Arizona and the Chicago White Sox. The deal is contingent upon a physical.

■ St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jim Lincecum, coming off a career-best 15 victories, agreed Monday to a \$3 million, one-year contract.

Marquis, 26, was 15-7 with a 3.71 ERA last year.

Suspended QB Marcus Vick rejects Hokies

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick was cleared Monday to rejoin the team after being suspended this season because of a night of drinking with underage girls.

The younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick joined his teammates for a meeting, re-enrolled at the university and started classes. The university and head coach Frank Beamer cleared the 20-year-old to return to all football-related activities after being suspended for the fall semester.

Marcus Vick was arrested in February 2004, along with teammates Jason Allen and Brenden Hill, after an encounter with 15-year-old girls at the quarterback's apartment in Blacksburg.

Vick, who avoided jail by pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge.

Vick also pleaded guilty to reck-

less driving and no contest to marijuana possession after a traffic stop last summer.

"I'm excited to be back — I missed this place," Vick said in a statement. "I know that I hurt a lot of people who only want to see me succeed. I'd like to try to make that up to them. I'm appreciative of the university and Coach Beamer for giving me this opportunity. Now I'm ready to put the past behind me and concentrate on the future."

Crawford returns to Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Freshman guard Joe Crawford rejoined Kentucky's basketball team after leaving the school last week because of a dispute over playing time.

Coach Tubby Smith said during a conference call Monday that Crawford will face "some sanctions," but he did not say what they were.

Crawford is working out with the team, but Smith would not say if he will play Wednesday when the Wildcats (12-2) are at Mississippi.

Smith has not allowed the Wildcats' freshmen to speak with reporters since the start of the season media day. A call to Crawford's home in Detroit on Monday was not immediately returned.

Pitt starter Demetris stepped indefinitely

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh starting guard Tyrus Demetris was suspended indefinitely Sunday for disciplinary reasons.

Coach Jamie Dixon said in a statement that Demetris would not practice while serving the suspension. Dixon did not indicate when or if Demetris would rejoin the No. 20 Panthers (12-2, 2-1 Big East).

"Discipline and proper behavior must remain the foundation of our program," Dixon said.

Demetris, a 6-foot-4 senior from Pittsburgh, has started in 14 games and ranks fifth on the team in minutes played. He's averaging 3.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per game but has been seven rebounds in 21 minutes Saturday in a 67-63 victory over Seton Hall.

Demetris plays at St. John's on Tuesday and at No. 12 Connecticut on Saturday.

TCU's Irvin blocks

Division I record 16 shots

FORT WORTH, Texas — TCU's Sandra Irvin set an NCAA Division I record with 16 blocked shots in the Lady Frogs' 75-34 win over UAB on Sunday.

Irvin also had 20 points and 18 rebounds for the first triple-double in school history.

Irvin broke the NCAA women's record of 15 that Amy Lindquist of Loyola Marymount set in December 1992 against Western Kentucky. The NCAA men's record of 14 is held by four players, including David Robinson and Shawn Bradley.

TCU finished the night with 19 blocked shots to tie the NCAA women's record for a team.

Memphis forward Banks ineligible for rest of season

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis sophomore forward Sean Banks will sit out of the rest of the season after being declared academically ineligible.

Banks, who started 10 games this season and was averaging 14.5 points and 5.8 rebounds, said he hopes to return to classes next month to help regain his eligibility.

"I'm sorry that I let my teammates, coaches, Coach [John] Calipari, the university and the city of Memphis down," Banks said Sunday. "The situation I am in is my own fault."

Gordon's late lay-in lifts Bulls to 7th straight win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ben Gordon scored on a driving 8-footer with one-tenth of a second remaining Monday to give Chicago an 88-86 victory over the New York Knicks, extending the Bulls' winning streak to seven games.

The string of victories is the longest for Chicago since the 1997-98 team won 13 straight. A member of that team, Scottie Pippen, was in the front row at Madison Square Garden to get a firsthand look at this edition of the Bulls.

NBA roundup

Gordon, who scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, went around a screen to free himself of Jamal Crawford, then took two more steps into the lane and launched his game-winner over the outstretched arm of Michael Sweetney.

Luol Deng led Chicago with 19 points, Kirk Hinrich had 14 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists and Andrew Nocioni came off the bench to add 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Stephen Marbury had 25 points to lead the Knicks, who lost for the seventh time in eight games and relinquished sole possession of first place in the Atlantic Division.

Chicago scored the final seven points of the game and held the Knicks without a field goal over the final 3½ minutes. New York was the Bulls' 22nd consecutive opponent to be held under 100 points.

Pistons 94, Suns 80: At Auburn Hills scored a career-high 26 points to lead Detroit reeling Phoenix, the NBA-leading Suns' fourth straight loss.

The Suns were held to a season-low point total and clearly missed Steve Nash, who was sidelined for a second consecutive game with a bruised left thigh. The point guard hopes to play Wednesday at home against Memphis.

After opening the season 31-0, Phoenix has gone 0-4. The Pistons are headed in the opposite direction, with sixth victory in a row to move a half-game ahead of idle Cleveland for first place in the Central Division.

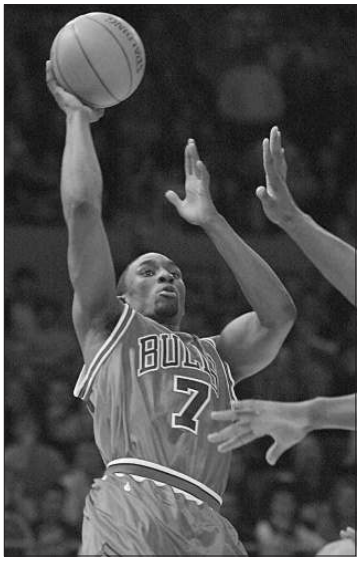
Johnson led the Suns on Monday with 17 points. Amare Stoudemire scored 16 and Quentin Richardson 13.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton scored 16 points, Rashad Wallace and Antonio McDyess each had 13, and Ben Wallace added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

Nets 85, Hawks 84: At Atlanta, Jason Kidd scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half as New Jersey ended a four-game losing streak.

Vince Carter also scored 23 points for New Jersey, which broke a five-game road losing streak.

Al Harrington led Atlanta with



Chicago Bulls' Ben Gordon (7) makes the game-winning shot with one-tenth of a second remaining as the Bulls beat the Knicks 88-86.

22 points. Tyrone Lee added 17.

Kings 89, Clippers 83: At Los Angeles, Chris Webber scored 23 points and Curtino Mobley hit a clutch three-pointer with 59.6 seconds left, leading Sacramento to a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Mobley scored 19 points in his second game with Sacramento, following the trade of Doug Christie to Orlando on Jan. 10.

The Kings, who beat the Clippers on Martin Luther King Jr. Day last season at Staples Center, have won the last seven meetings including Saturday night's 99-95 victory at ARCO Arena. Sacramento has won four straight overall and eight of 10.

Elton Brand had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Second-year center Chris Kaman, who scored a career-high 23 points for the Clippers on Saturday in Sacramento, tied a career-high with 15 rebounds and had 10 points.

Bucks 99, Bobcats 92: At Charlotte, N.C., Michael Redd scored 27 points to help Milwaukee break its four-game losing streak.

Desmond Mason added 16 points. Dan Gaurdzic had 13 points and 10 rebounds, Joe

Smith scored 12 and Mike James had 11 as the Bucks had five players in double figures.

Emeka Okafor had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the stumbling Bobcats, who have dropped five straight and 11 of their last 12 games.

Gerald Wallace had 13 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks for Charlotte.

SuperSonics 105, Cavaliers 97: At Seattle, Luke Ridnour scored a career-high 18 points as Seattle overtook trend Cleveland in the second straight win, and then held them off in the fourth.

Ridnour, who came to the NBA last year after playing three seasons at Oregon, scored eight of his points in the fourth quarter, including six free throws in the final minute. The win was Seattle's second straight win over the SuperSonics.

Rashard Lewis, who sidelined with tendinitis in his left knee. LeRon James had 35 points on 14-for-30 shooting and 11 assists, while Drew Gooden finished with 27 points for Cleveland.

Ryan Allen led the Sonics with 27 points.

Vladimir Radmanovic had 23 points and 11 rebounds, while Antonio Daniels, starting in place of Lewis, had 15 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	17	20	.459
New York	17	20	.459
Philadelphia	15	22	.405
Toronto	17	20	.459
New Jersey	13	24	.351

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	29	11	.718
Orlando	20	16	.556
Charlotte	8	28	.217
Atlanta	16	22	.421

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Detroit	23	14	.622
Cleveland	22	14	.611
Indiana	18	17	.514
Chicago	17	18	.486
Milwaukee	13	23	.361

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	9	7	.562
Dallas	12	7	.632
Houston	10	8	.556
Memphis	10	8	.556
New Orleans	12	8	.600

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	9	7	.562
Minnesota	17	11	.607
Denver	17	11	.607
Portland	15	11	.577
Utah	13	16	.444

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	13	7	.650
Sacramento	25	11	.694
L.A. Lakers	20	12	.625
L.A. Clippers	18	15	.545
Golden State	11	27	.289

Sunday's games
Toronto 102, New Orleans 99
Seattle 105, Cleveland 97

Monday's games
Chicago 88, New York 86
29, Charlotte 92
New Jersey 85, Atlanta 84
Cleveland 95, New Orleans 91
Detroit 84, Phoenix 80

Tuesday's games
Toronto at San Antonio
Toronto at Minnesota
Houston at Memphis
Utah at L.A. Lakers
Denver at Golden State

Wednesday's games
Chicago at Boston
New York at Toronto
Philadelphia at Charlotte
Atlanta at Miami
Milwaukee at New Jersey
Indiana at New Orleans
Memphis at Phoenix
Cleveland at Portland
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers

Sunday

Raptors 102, Hornets 99

NEW ORLEANS — Nallan 14-20 4-12, Rogers 14-6 0-3, Brown 3-7 1-4, Smith 13-11, P. 15, Davis 6-17 0-1, Anderson 8-24 1-11, 17, 40-91 19-21, 40-91 19-21.

TORONTO — E. Williams 4-10 0-0, Bosh 7-16 10-24, Ansel 12-20 0-2, Peterson 7-13 6-6, 25, Austin 4-15 1-13, Marshall 11-21 1-5, Rose 6-15 5-18, Murray 3-10 0-3, Bonner 4-5 0-0, 10, 40-91 19-21, 40-91 19-21.

NEW ORLEANS — 25-16 22-29
Toronto 37, Smith 3-9, Rogers 1-4, Dickau 1-7, 40-91 19-21, 40-91 19-21.

Sonics 105, Cavaliers 97
CLEVELAND — Golden 8-13 0-4, 19-27, 10-20, 40-91 19-21, 40-91 19-21.
Cleveland 2-13 1-5, Newble 7-12 2-4, Jarrett 10-20 0-0, 19-27, 10-20, 40-91 19-21.
Snow 1-2 0-2, Pavlovic 1-13 0-2, Totals 37-60 19-21, 40-91 19-21.

SEATTLE — Daniels 5-12 4-15, Evans 2-10 0-0, 19-27, 10-20, 40-91 19-21.
Seattle 4-13 9-18, Colson 2-6 1-2, 5, 19-27, 10-20, 40-91 19-21.

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Seattle 4-13 9-18, Colson 2-6 1-2, 5, 19-27, 10-20, 40-91 19-21.

76ers win, move into tie atop Atlantic

By Dan Gelston

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson was hardly concerned Philadelphia was a 25-point lead in the fourth quarter. All that mattered was that the 76ers held on for a victory and grabbed a share of first place.

Kenny Thomas had 21 points and 15 rebounds, Iverson scored 29, and Philadelphia survived a disastrous fourth quarter before beating the New Orleans Hornets 95-91 Monday.

"It did matter if we won by 30 or we won by one. It's the same result," Iverson said.

Corliss Williamson added 16 points for the Sixers, who are 17-20 but moved into a tie with the Knicks and Celtics atop the Atlantic Division.

"That's been our ultimate goal, just get to first place and win the Atlantic," Iverson said.

"That's it. Hopefully today we moved a step closer, but we've got a long way to go."

New Orleans played without leading scorer Brian Davis, who bruised his right ankle in Sunday's loss to Toronto. Lee Nallan led the Hornets with 23 points, Dan Dickau added 16 and P.J. Brown had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

After winning three of four and providing some reason to feel good about themselves, New Orleans (5-32) has lost two straight. The Hornets had the fourth comeback, though.

Iverson opened the like quarter with a three-pointer for an 82-57 lead, but the Hornets went on a 17-0 run highlighted by three jumpers from Nallan and a three-pointer by Dickau.

The Sixers scored their first points in 7½ minutes when Williamson fought his way through the paint for a basket and a free throw to make it 85-74. Iverson hit a jumper from the left wing and added another from the baseline for an 89-78 lead.

New Orleans scored the next seven points to cut the deficit to four, and when Dickau was fouled by Iverson on a three-point attempt, the Hornets guard made all three free throws to make it 93-91.

Kyle Korver sealed the win with two free throws.

"I was a basketball nightmare," Korver said. "Luckily, we had built up enough of a lead to just kind of hang on. That didn't just feel right."

The Hornets shot 52 percent in the fourth, scored nine points off five Sixers turnovers and out-rebounded them by six in a quarter. New Orleans also made all 11 free throws in the quarter.

"We've been playing a lot better as a team lately, but it hasn't necessarily been translated into a win of this. It's going to one of these days," Dickau said. "I guess coming back from a deficit like that feels good in a way, but we dug ourselves too big of a hole."

Moss, Minnesota mess up chances in Philly

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Randy Moss had an excused absence this time.

Minnesota's star receiver was mistakenly pulled off the field for a fake field goal, and the Vikings misfired when it counted most on Sunday, squandering their chance to advance to the NFC championship game with a 27-14 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

"That's how football goes," quarterback Daunte Culpepper said. "You've got to be able to play mistake-free football, but if you do make mistakes you've got to be able to make up for it."

With all the pressure on their opponent in this divisional playoff game, the Vikings didn't take advantage of all the opportunities provided by an Eagles team that looked very beatable.

Culpepper threw two interceptions in Philadelphia's end of the field, and the defense committed four costly penalties, befitting the team's up-then-down, mostly disappointing season.

And then there was the botched fake, a crazy play sure to be remembered for a while by Vikings fans.

Trailing 21-7, Minnesota faced fourth-and-goal at the 3-yard line with less than five minutes remaining in the first half. As the offense awaited word, several players motioned to coach Mike Tice to go for it.

The kicking team ran out, though Moss — who caught flak

two weeks ago for leaving the field in frustration as the Vikings lined up for a desperation outside kick in Washington — jogged toward the sideline perpendicular to the goal line.

He stopped just before going out of bounds, however, and was ready to line up as an eligible receiver without anyone covering him.

Problem.

Backup center Cory Withrow was on the field, unaware of plans for the fake, and coaches and teammates had to yell for Moss to come off to avoid a penalty for too many men on the field.

"I didn't hear the call," Withrow said.

Holder Gus Ferrette — Culpepper's backup — took the snap, jumped up, looked left to where Moss would be, and had no body open.

Ferrette was forced to throw the ball out of the end zone, and the Eagles took over on downs.

"We'd love to have a chance to do it again," Ferrette said. "They probably didn't even know it was coming. If we'd have thrown a touchdown, it would've been 21-14 and we would have had all the momentum. It's just one of those things."

Moss declined to comment after the game.

Minnesota, which started 5-1 before stumbling in the second half and finishing 8-8, began the season with high expectations. This talented team was in just about every game, including a 27-16 loss to Philadelphia on Monday night in September.



Minnesota Vikings' Randy Moss walks off the field after losing to the Philadelphia Eagles 27-14 in an NFC divisional playoff on Sunday.

day night in September.

But whether it was a withering pass defense, ill-timed turnovers or just plain dumb mistakes, the Vikings always seemed to find

more ways to hurt themselves than their opponent. This game was no different.

"At this point, we're two steps past where we were last year,"

said Culpepper, whose team finished 3-7 in 2003 and missed the playoffs by losing on the final play of an 18-17 defeat against Arizona. "Next year, if we improve two more steps we're in the championship."

Dontarrious Thomas, Willie O'Ford, Ralph Brown and Antoine Winfield were called for penalties that totaled 83 yards and led to first downs on Eagles scoring drives.

A holding penalty on Thomas gave the Eagles a first down at the Minnesota 31 midway through the first quarter after an incomplete on third-and-6. Philadelphia took a 7-0 lead four plays later.

Pass interference calls on O'Ford and Winfield helped the Eagles drive 46 yards in just 28 seconds to go up 21-7 early in the second.

Then Brown was flagged for pass interference on Todd Pinkston early in the fourth quarter, a 46-yarder that set up a field goal by David Akers that stretched the lead to 24-7.

Culpepper, who set team records with 39 touchdowns and 4,717 yards passing this season, was flawless in last week's 31-17 win in Green Bay — throwing for four TDs without a turnover.

Against the blitz-happy Eagles and their defense laden with Pro Bowlers, Culpepper after his game threw three interceptions on consecutive possessions in the third quarter when the Vikings still had a chance to come back.

Eagles: Vick poses next big challenge

EAGLES, FROM BACK PAGE

With the Steelers hosting New England in the AFC championship game, it could be even more embarrassing for Eagles fans if Pittsburgh was the only Pennsylvania representative in the Super Bowl.

"The last few years have left a bad taste in our mouth," Pro Bowl middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter said. "We know what is at stake now. We are a better team now than we were the last three years."

The Eagles silenced some of their critics with an easy win without All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens, out with an ankle injury.

"T.O. only made us better," cornerback Sheldon Brown said.

"We've been in this situation for three years now. He only made us better, so the team is still a good football team."

Atlanta presents a more formidable challenge than the Vikings.

Pro Bowl quarterback Michael Vick leads an offense that gained 327 yards on the ground in Satur-



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb breaks away from Minnesota Vikings' Lance Johnstone during the first half in Philadelphia on Sunday.

day's 47-17 rout of St. Louis. Running backs Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett give the Falcons a

solid one-two punch in the backfield, keeping defenses off-balance.

"They're the best running unit in the league," All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins said. "They're doing a good job mixing in small passes every once in a while. They have a good defense and they're doing a good job with ball control, so we're going to have our hands full, especially with their quarterback."

Though the Eagles had no trouble keeping Daunte Culpepper in the pocket, Vick clearly is the most dangerous running QB in the league. Vick had 119 yards rushing against the Rams, a playoff record for a quarterback.

"Daunte is fast, but this guy is faster and more elusive," Reid said. "Daunte will knock you out, while this guy will run around you. They have different styles."

The Eagles go in relatively healthy, except for Owens, who has an outside chance at playing in the Super Bowl if his teammates get there.

Right tackle Jon Runyan sprained knee ligaments in the final minutes against the Vikings, but Reid expects him to play.

Linebacker Mark Simoneau (ankle) might return this week after missing one game.

NFL scoreboard

Playoffs	
Divisional Playoffs	Saturday, Jan. 15
Pittsburgh 20, N.Y. Jets 17	Atlanta 47, St. Louis 17
Sunday, Jan. 16	
Philadelphia 27, Minnesota 14	New England 28, Indianapolis 3
Conference Championships	Sunday, Jan. 23
Atlanta at Philadelphia	New England at Pittsburgh
Super Bowl	Sunday, Feb. 6
AFC vs. NFC	Jacksonville, Fla.
Pro Bowl	Sunday, Feb. 13
AFC vs. NFC	At Honolulu

Sunday	
Eagles 27, Vikings 14	
7 14 0 7-14	
Philadelphia 7 14 0 6-27	
First Quarter	Second Quarter
Phil—Mitchell 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 6:18.	Phil—Westbrook 7 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 14:16.
Min—Culpepper 7 run (Andersen kick), 10:37.	Phil—Mitchell fumble recovery in end zone (Akers kick), 10:26.
Fourth Quarter	
Phil—FG Akers 21, 13:20.	Min—Robinson 32 pass from Culpepper (Akers kick), 1:59.
Min	Phil
First downs	21 23
Total Net Yards	385 395
Rushes-yards	21-97 25-109
Passing	8-86 2-7
Penalties	2-7 2-7
Penalty Returns	4-11 2-7
Kickoff Returns	1-28 1-28
Interceptions Ret.	0-0 2-8
Comp-Att-Int.	24-47-2 21-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-38 3-17
Fumbles-Lost	1-0 3-1
Penalties-Yards	7-108 4-50
Time of Possession	32:25 27:35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing—Minnesota , Bennett 8-37, Smith 7-13, Culpepper 5-52, Moore 1-10, Philadelphia, Westbrook 12-78, Lewis 10-36, McNabb 3-3.	
Passing—Minnesota , Culpepper 24-42-336, Ferrette 0-1-0-0, Philadelphia, McNabb 21-33-286.	
Receiving—Minnesota , Robinson 5-119, Burleson 4-50, Smith 4-28, Moss 3-51, Wiggins 2-26, Moore 2-20, Bennett 2-minus 11, Pierce 1-1, Campbell 1-10.	
Philadelphia , Mitchell 5-65, Westbrook 5-47, Smith 4-52, Parry 1-56, Lewis 2-64, Parry 1-7, Lewis 1-5.	
Mined field goals—None.	
Patriots 20, Colts 3	0 3 0 3-0
Indianapolis	New England
Second Quarter	Third Quarter
NE—FG Vinatieri 24, 10:40.	NE—FG Vinatieri 31, 7:56.
Ind—FG Vinatieri 33, 3:00.	Ind—FG Vinatieri 33, 3:00.
Fourth Quarter	
Brady 1 run from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 1:30.	A—68,756.
First downs	Ind
NE 27	28
Total Net Yards	276 225
Rushes-yards	15-106 19-110
Passing	10-136 10-136
Penalty Returns	3-2 0-0
Kickoff Returns	4-58 1-15
Interceptions Ret.	0-0 1-9
Comp-Att-Int.	27-42-1 18-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-0 3-20
Fumbles-Lost	6-47 5-39
Penalties-Yards	4-44 5-59
Time of Possession	22:17 37:43
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing—Indianapolis , James 18-74, Manning 1-7, New England, Dillon 23-144, Faulk 11-56, Brady 4-6, Branch 1-4.	
Passing—Indianapolis , Manning 27-42-0-28, New England, Brady 18-27-0-0.	
Receiving—Indianapolis , Clark 5-64, James 7-69, Harrison 5-44, Wayne 3-36, Clark 2-26, Pollard 2-1, Branch 1-minus 2, New England, Dillon 2-13, Lewis 4-26, Brown 2-13, Fauria 1-2, Rhodes 1-5, Pass 1-14, Patten 1-12, Faulk 1-11, Graham 1-10, Richardson 1-9.	
Mined field goals—None.	

'Clock-killin' Dillon' thrives in playoff debut

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — This is why Corey Dillon wanted to get out of Cincinnati. It's also why the New England Patriots wanted to get him.

Dillon carried 23 times for 144 yards in his playoff debut Sunday to help the Patriots advance to the AFC championship game with a 20-3 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. The only thing between them and a third conference title is the Pittsburgh Steelers, who beat New England on Halloween when Dillon was out with a thigh injury.

"I'm certainly glad Corey's going to be there," quarterback Tom Brady said. "I know he's glad he's here; he's told us that a bunch of times. And we're glad to have him."

Dillon played the first seven years of his career with the woeful Bengals, racking up big yards but accumulating three years after year of losing got him down. Before the Patriots traded a second-round draft pick for him in April, Dillon had to convince them that he wasn't a malcontent.

"There's not a day goes by I don't brag those guys and say, 'Thank you,'" Dillon said. "I'm serious. They'll tell you, too. We're probably a little annoyed by me doing it."



New England Patriots RB Corey Dillon leads off Indianapolis Colts' Raheem Brock on a first-quarter run Sunday in Foxboro, Mass. Dillon carried 23 times for 144 yards in the Patriots' 20-3 victory over the Colts.

"I do it just to let them know I appreciate them believing in me. I'm just ecstatic about being in this situation."

New England fans let him know the feeling is mutual, chanting, "Corey! Corey!" as the clock wound down. Dillon's teammates agree: Linebacker Ted Johnson said after the game he was heading to the souvenir stand to buy a No. 28 jersey.

One teammate needed him by calling him "Clock-killin' Dillon." Another led him into the locker room by telling the waiting reporters, "Here comes the man of the hour."

Dillon has been a model citizen since joining the defending Super Bowl champions. He's also given the Patriots the running game they lacked even as they won two NFL titles in the previous three seasons.

"Who wouldn't be excited about having a Pro Bowl player come to your offense. He came in and worked hard. He's a great leader and he's got a great attitude," Brady said.

"I don't care what someone's reputation is. When you come to this team, you fit in. Corey did a great attitude coming in, and it's just gotten better."

And so have the Patriots, who used him to replace the steady but unspectacular Antowain Smith.

Dillon ran for 1,635 yards during the regular season — a career high — with franchise records and the third-most in the NFL. His 12 rushing touchdowns were also a personal best, as were his nine games this season with 100 yards or more.

But he could have done most of that in Cincinnati. What he really came to New England for was a game like Sunday's.

"He was excited. He probably had butterflies," fullback Patrick Pass said. "He wanted a taste of what we went through the past two of three years."

With Dillon sharing the carries

with Kevin Faulk, who ran 11 times for 56 yards on Sunday, the Patriots didn't have to rely on Brady as much while milking the clock with 14-, 15- and 16-play drives.

"I think he's really going to take the pressure off Tom," Pass said. "I just knew he would have a good game. He's our go-to guy."

Dillon didn't really get going until the end of the first quarter, when the Patriots took over at their own 16 and he ran on three consecutive plays to put the ball on the 36. The drive set up a field goal that gave the Patriots a 3-0 lead.

On their next possession, Dillon broke free for a 42-yard gain that gave them their only yardage of the drive before Vintateri made it 6-0. Dillon ran six times for 26 yards to help set up the third-quarter touchdown that gave New England a 13-3 lead.

Then gave the Patriots a team to protect, and Dillon was just the one to do it.

Starting on their own 36 with 1:34 left in the game, the Patriots moved to the Colts' 25 before Dillon ran into a pack, changed direction and then broke free around the left side. He dove at the pylon but was ruled out of bounds at the 1; Brady's sneak made it 20-3.

Dillon also led the Patriots with four catches, though they only went for seven yards.

49ers hire Ravens' Noan as head coach

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Baltimore defensive coordinator Mike Nolan accepted the San Francisco 49ers' head coaching position Monday and began to negotiate a contract to take over the team that had the NFL's worst record last season.

Nolan, a longtime coordinator for four teams who has never been a head coach, will replace Dennis Erickson, fired earlier in the month after going 9-23 in two seasons out of the playoffs. San Francisco went 2-14 this season.

After wowing 49ers owner John York in an interview Thursday, Nolan accepted the offer Monday and flew to York's home in Ohio to work out a contract.

"[York] had a good strong list of candidates, and they felt that Mike was the perfect candidate to lead us into the future," 49ers spokesman Kirk Reynolds said.

Nolan earned the chance to follow in the footsteps of his father, Dick, who was 54-53-5 in eight seasons as the 49ers' coach from 1968-75, winning three straight division championships and reaching two NFC title games while getting the first playoff wins in franchise history.

Mike Nolan, 45, has been in charge of the Ravens' powerful defense since 2001, following stints as the coordinator with the New York Jets (2000), Washington (1997-99) and the New York Giants (1993-96). Baltimore

ranked sixth in the NFL in total defense last season.

General manager Terry Bradshaw was fired along with Erickson, and Nolan will have a hand in picking Donahue's successor as York rebuilds the once-proud franchise, which will have the top pick in the next draft.

York, who didn't return a call seeking comment, has said he planned to hire a coach with broad power, supplemented by a general manager who concentrates on salary cap issues.

Nolan will be the 15th head coach in 49ers history.

Nolan was interviewed by York and two of the team's remaining members of the 49ers' front office. He was offered the job Mon-

day morning, beating out four other candidates: New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, thought to be Cleveland's top choice; Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis; and Tennessee coordinators Mike Peterson and Jim Schwartz.

Southern California coach Pete Carroll, thought to be York's top choice after he fired Erickson, apparently was never contacted by the 49ers after initially saying he wasn't interested.

Nolan is a protégé of Dan Reeves, who hired the former Oregon safety for his first NFL job with the Denver Broncos in 1987. He was a hot candidate for several head coaching spots in recent years, but his status cooled slightly until the 49ers became interested.

Pats: Colts fail to win again at Foxboro

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kept Manning on the sideline, while Brady threw for one touchdown, ran for another and completed 18 passes in 27 attempts for 144 yards.

"I've not even recognizing my last seven seasons right now," said Dillon, who spent them with Cincinnati. "It's all about this year."

New England (15-2) led 6-0 on Adam Vinatieri's field goals of 24 and 31 yards in the second quarter with the first one capped by a 16-play, 78-yard march that lasted 9 minutes, 7 seconds.

"We played our best 30 minutes of football in the second half," Belichick said. "Ran the ball, converted third downs, played good defense."

Indianapolis (13-5) scored on Mike Vanderjag's 23-yard field goal on the last play of the first half.

"We just ran into a better team today," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "That's one thing about them. They have a way to win. We felt pretty good sitting 6-3 at the half."

When Brady threw a 5-yard scoring pass to David Givens to cap a third-quarter drive that lasted 8:16, Manning had to make his remaining possessions count against the hamstringing defense.

He did not. And Brady followed with a 94-yard drive that ended with his 1-yard touchdown run.

Facing a 20-3 deficit with 7:10 left, there was little that even Manning could do.

The Patriots proved once again they could win without their best defenders. Pro Bowl defensive lineman Richard Seymour was sidelined with a knee injury, and starting cornerbacks Ty Law and Tyrone Poole were on injured reserve. But the Patriots' defense still stifled the highest scoring team in NFL history.

"It was just the best game plan that we've had since I've been here," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said.

Belichick had nothing but praise for his makeshift secondary.

"They played very well. There's nothing magical. They rushed them. They jammed them. They tackled them. They covered them," he said.

The season ended for the Colts right where it started. They lost the opener in Foxboro 27-24 when Vandegri missed a 48-yard field goal attempt in the final minute. The Colts have now lost six straight to New England and nine straight in Foxboro.

And for the Patriots, the road to the Super Bowl once again runs through Pittsburgh, where they won the AFC title in 2002.

Ex-Raider Robbins critically wounded by police

The Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Former Oakland Raiders center Barrett Robbins was shot and critically wounded during a struggle with a police officer investigating a burglary at a South Beach office building.

Robbins, a former All-Pro known best for going AWOL during the 2003 Super Bowl and other erratic behavior, was hospitalized in critical condition.

Robbins was shot several times in the torso during a "violent struggle" with a Miami Beach detective Saturday night, police spokesman John Hernandez said.

"The officer was literally fighting for his life, trying to get Mr. Robbins from getting his gun. That's when the shots rang out," Hernandez said.

Robbins, 31, was confronted in a second-floor gym in a building that also houses a nightclub, office and jewelry store. He was considered a burglary suspect, though no charges had been filed, Hernandez said.

"We just have to figure out what he was doing there," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said authorities had not been able to interview Robbins, but that the former offensive lineman was expected to face a charge of battery on a police officer. Hernandez also said police were trying to determine whether he would face trespassing or burglary charges.

Detective Mike Muley, who fired the shots, had minor head injuries from the scuffle and was treated at a hospital and released.

Robbins was taken to Ryder Trauma Cen-

ter at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Hernandez did not immediately have Robbins' condition Sunday, and a hospital official did not immediately return a page.

Robbins was arrested last month in San Francisco for hitting a security guard at a night club.

The often-troubled player is best remembered for disappearing the night before the 2003 Super Bowl in San Diego. He spent Super Bowl Sunday in a hospital and later acknowledged that he had stopped taking his medicine for depression and bipolar disorder.

The Raiders lost 48-21 to Tampa Bay.

Robbins was released by Oakland in July, a week after he and two other players were fined three game checks for testing positive for the steroid THG.

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Pats, Eagles playing on

Patchwork defense stifles Colts once again

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The quintessential quarterback keeps running into the quintessential team. For the second year in a row, the New England Patriots made MVP Peyton Manning look ordinary and his Indianapolis teammates inept, this time beating them 20-3 Sunday behind Corey Dillon's 144 yards rushing. The Pats held the ball nearly 38 minutes, leaving Manning hardly any time to work his magic.

"I think our defense is what made this game successful," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said. "Three points to one of the best offenses in the history of football is incredible."

Manning's quarterbacking brilliance was neutralized as usual by Bill Belichick's punishing defense and the Colts' Super Bowl aspirations ended yet again on this snowy New England field.

"It was an excellent run, a fine year," Manning said. "But when you finish with a loss in the playoffs, you can't be happy about it. Eventually, it will be our time. ... All I can think about right now is losing this game."

Manning is now 0-7 in Foxboro. Brady is 7-0 in the postseason.

For the defending champions, one more win in Pittsburgh and it's on to Jacksonville, Fla., for their third Super Bowl trip in four years.

Tedy Bruschi, Willie McGinest and the rest of the Patriots' defense spent the day frustrating Manning, who was 27-for-42 for 238 yards. In a stunning failure for the NFL's most prolific passing attack, the Colts managed only a field goal.

"I don't have a clue," said Edgerrin James, held to 39 yards rushing. "I really don't know what happened out there. I was just trying to do what I can do."

The conditions were just right for the Patriots' strategy: run the ball, throw short passes and watch the clock tick down. New England did just that, putting to-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts after scoring a touchdown during the fourth quarter of their AFC divisional playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday. The Patriots won 20-3.

gether its three most time-consuming drives of the season.

Manning's timing with his receivers was off from the beginning, and the tone was set on the Colts' second series when a third-down pass went right through the hands of tight end Dallas Clark — a play that likely would have produced a first down.

The cold temperatures couldn't have helped Indianapolis, which plays home games in the 72-de-

gree warmth of the RCA Dome. Last year in Foxboro, Manning threw four interceptions in a 24-14 AFC title game loss.

Manning, who set NFL records with 49 touchdowns and a 121.1 passer rating in the regular season, delivered his worst performance this year, failing to throw a touchdown pass for the first time on his way to a 69.3 rating.

As for the Patriots, Dillon keyed a ball-control offense that

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Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Freddie Mitchell, left, is congratulated by teammate Ron Runyan after scoring a touchdown in first quarter against the Vikings on Sunday. The Eagles won 27-14.

Past experience teaches Philly not to celebrate yet

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles didn't pop open any champagne bottles and hardly celebrated their latest playoff victory.

After losing the last three NFC championship games, they won't be partying until they get to a Super Bowl. Neither will their jittery fans, who are used to heartbreaking losses this time of year.

"We're not happy about winning this game," wide receiver Greg Lewis said after Sunday's 27-14 victory over Minnesota sent the Eagles to their fourth consecutive NFC title game. "We want to win the next game and the next game. That's what we're looking forward to."

The Eagles (14-3) host Atlanta (12-5) Sunday — the first time a team has hosted three straight conference championships.

It's a rematch of a second-round playoff game two years ago won 20-6 by Philadelphia.

Some players are using the last three championship games as mo-

tivation. Eagles coach Andy Reid prefers to focus on the matchup against the Falcons instead of recalling the losses at home to Carolina and Tampa Bay and in St. Louis in 2002.

"Every team is a new team," he said Monday. "I don't think you use as much of the past as people think. We understand the intensity of the game. We're going to come out and play our best game. That's what you strive for."

The Eagles have been here before, home favorites against a team from a city with a warmer climate that has trouble winning on the road, especially in cold weather.

Only a victory against the Falcons can ease the memories of the past playoff failures. Meanwhile, the level of anxiety in Philly will be off the charts this week, considering how often teams — and horses, remember Smarty Jones — choke around here. This championship-starved city hasn't celebrated a winner since the 76ers won the NBA title in 1983, and hasn't seen an NFL title since 1960.

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